

First Published 1793
in the Commons
world view
to Wales

of the Arts Council
should go to London
the British regions, London
well, more any
draw murmurings of
proval from both sides of
the House, there
more regional than London
MPs. Even Mr. Chasman
could not quite agree with
him.

None of this is to suggest
that, whatever they may be
thinking about, MPs are
other than the Falklands
had by the subject for more
two weeks now. When the
the brief Easter recess, the
remained the situation a
that because of the
that there is now the
but which seems to be
er than a few more
something is going
happen. But what is
happening yesterday than
we knew.

Ready to wage
total negotiation

Mr. Pym, the Foreign
Secretary, arrived in
Washington yesterday
for a meeting of the
Foreign Ministers of the
Commonwealth.

The politicians on the
left, who are in the
opposition, are not
happy with the Falklands
policy. They think the
Government is too
soft on the Argentinians.
They want a harder
line. They want to
show the Argentinians
that we are serious.
They want to show the
Argentinians that we
are not afraid of them.
They want to show the
Argentinians that we
are not going to give
in to their demands.
They want to show the
Argentinians that we
are not going to let
them have the Falklands
without a fight.

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Britain gains from EEC

Only West Germany was a net contributor to the EEC budget last year, according to revised figures from the European Commission. Britain, benefiting from a special gap-gap rebate deal negotiated in 1980, received about £18m more from the Community than it paid in.

The figures will put extra pressure on British negotiators, but they will say that the break conditions combined to mean Britain paid only £715m while receiving £733m.

Farm deal, page 7

Car bombing wave in Ulster

A wave of car bomb attacks across Northern Ireland caused extensive damage soon after a police warning that the Provisional IRA was intent on provoking more violence (Richard Ford writes). Five car bombs and an incendiary device went off within an hour of each other. No one was thought to be seriously injured, although a number of people, including a policeman, were slightly hurt at Strabane, Co. Tyrone. A woman collapsed and had to be treated for shock when the biggest bomb exploded in Belfast.

Trade talks aim to ease tension

Officials from the EEC, the United States, Japan and Canada will meet next month near Paris in an attempt to defuse growing tensions over world trade. The meeting will follow the style of the talks held at Key Biscayne, Florida, in January.

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Racialism pledge

Mr Roy Hattersley, shadow Home Secretary, defended his pledge to dismiss police officers guilty of racialism, if he held office, despite strong protests from senior policemen.

Page 2

Furs campaign

An animal protection group is to campaign against the sale of fur coats made from endangered species after a Manchester company was fined £750 for selling a leopard skin coat.

Page 3

Queen's Awards

The first British company to export microcomputer software to Japan is among 110 winners of this year's Queen's Awards for export and technology announced today. Awards were made to 19 firms for technological advancement.

Page 16

Labour pay deal

A wage-bargaining deal is emerging from talks between party leaders and the TUC which could make Labour's general election manifesto more attractive to the political middle ground.

Page 3

IBA post

Mr John Whitney, age 51, managing director of Capital Radio, has been appointed to the £40,000 a year post of director-general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority in succession to Sir Brian Young. His appointment was welcomed by an industry spokesman as "interesting and imaginative".

Page 2

Cricket shadow

The shadow cast by the Test ban on several of England's best players falls heavily across the new cricket season, John Woodcock writes in a preview.

Page 19

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Letters: On the Falklands, from Lord Jenkins of Putney, and others; damaged pavements, from Mr G Chaine; safeguarding countryside, from Mr Guy Somerset.

Leading articles: Falklands; County rents.

Features, pages 9, 12

Roger Boyes considers the Polish paradox; walkers back on the warpath; British Rail's vision for the 1990s.

Obituary, page 14

Brigadier Frederick Baston, Mr William Huntley.

Pym off to US for talks on Britain's proposals

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

British counter-proposals to the latest Argentine proposals for a settlement of the Falkland Islands dispute are to be sent to Washington today, Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, will fly there tomorrow to discuss them with Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, who is acting as mediator.

The Cabinet met for an hour last night to receive from Mr Pym an outline of the Argentine terms which Mr Haig conveyed to London on Monday night, and to consider the nature of the response which is being formulated in detail by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, with four of her senior colleagues and with the Chief of Defence Staff. This inner group, which met last night, is to meet again today.

The Argentine proposals, which Mr Haig has transmitted but not endorsed, have not been disclosed. Nor was any indication available last night of the British Government's attitude beyond Mrs Thatcher's words to the House of Commons yesterday, when she said that she could not disguise that the Argentine proposals fell short, in some important respects, of the objectives and requirements as expressed in the Commons.

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Mrs Thatcher added that, among the many problems which the Argentine proposals presented, was that they failed to ensure that the Falkland Islanders should be able to determine their own destiny.

Announcing Mr Pym's journey to Washington, Mrs Thatcher said that the Government regarded the Argentine proposals as a stage in the negotiating process, which must now be continued. She told questioners that she believed Mr Haig to be "a good and appropriate negotiator", and she added that the Government remained committed to seeking a diplomatic solution "if one can possibly be found that is acceptable".

Last night ministers, while revealing nothing of the Argentine proposals, and continuing to emphasize the

Politicians exploit divisions in junta

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, April 20

Argentina's military junta is looking increasingly weak and vulnerable amid persistent rumours of deep divisions over the Falklands crisis.

Their apparent disarray is being exploited by political parties, which are not supposed to be active but are nevertheless asserting themselves over the need to return to a civilian government.

The junta is obviously weakened by the parties' readiness and instructed General Alfredo Saint Jean, the Interior Minister, to meet 13 leading politicians today in an attempt to placate them. They have publicly chastised the regime for not keeping people properly informed of developments in the Falklands and demanded an immediate explanation of the junta's latest position.

The possibility of a change in government is being widely discussed and several leading politicians are privately mooted the idea of a transitional arrangement under which civilian members of a new administration would be chosen by some form of limited election.

One of two Argentine newspapers have published hints

about the possibility of a coup and the English language Buenos Aires Herald, which consistently displays great courage in its coverage of the Falklands crisis, published a leading article sharply attacking military rule.

It said: "There can be little doubt now, after the events of the last few weeks, that Argentina has been ruled by an elected civilian government and not an authoritarian military regime, its position would be far better than it is now."

"Had an elected government been in power Great Britain's drive to recapture the disputed south Atlantic islands would probably have been far less intense than it actually proved."

The desire to punish General Leopoldo Galtieri is in all likelihood an even more important factor than the need to demonstrate that Great Britain remains a significant power despite its economic difficulties.

Politicians are being freely quoted in newspapers on their views about the Falklands crisis and there is little doubt that all but a few continued on back page, col 4



Heroes' welcome: Lieutenant Mills (centre) and his men are greeted by Sir Stuart Pringle (left) and Mr Jerry Wiggin

Marine describes South Georgia battle

By Henry Stanhope

A young Royal Marine officer yesterday described how he and 21 others fought to keep the Union Jack flying over South Georgia, the lonely sub-Antarctic island where an illegal landing last month has brought Britain and Argentina to the brink of war.

He said that after two hours of heavy and continuing firing between 10 and 15 Argentine commandos lay dead, at least 20 more were wounded, two helicopters had been shot down and a corvette so badly crippled by anti-tank rockets that it barely limped back to its mainland port.

Lieutenant Keith Mills, aged 22, from Amlwch, Gwynedd, told a press conference at the Ministry of Defence: "What we did at Grytviken I don't think could

have been achieved by anybody else. Every man was prepared to die for the reasons that we were there, and I was very proud of them."

He was speaking only hours after they had flown in to RAF Brize Norton, with seven other marines captured on the Falklands themselves and 13 scientists of the British Antarctic Survey.

RAF onlookers gave them a hero's welcome, cheering and clapping as they stepped off the VC10, to be met by Mr Jerry Wiggin, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir Stuart Pringle, Commandant-General, Royal Marines, and Mr Rex Hunt, Governor of the Falkland Islands, expelled by the Argentine occupying troops.

The battle of South Georgia took place on April 3, a

day after the invasion of the Falklands, when an Argentine officer landed at Grytviken from the patrol ship Bahia Paraiso. He called on the marines to surrender.

"Our reply was that we were under orders not to surrender," Lieutenant Mills said. A corvette was then seen steaming towards the shore and an Alouette helicopter appeared overhead.

After evacuating the British scientists to a nearby church, he went down to the jetty to negotiate with the Argentines, but retreated through the water to strike position of trenches and booby traps which they had prepared the previous day, when one of the Argentine soldiers from the helicopter, jumped out on landing and aimed his rifle.

It was the Royal Marines who opened the firing, how-

ever, at an Argentine Puma helicopter with 20 commandos on board which prepared to land 100 yards away. They fired between 600 and 800 rounds at the helicopter which backed away trailing black smoke and landed on the other side of the bay. "No marines were seen to descend from it", Lieutenant Mills said.

They hit the corvette more than 1,200 times, hitting it badly with one 34mm anti-tank rocket which fell 10 yards short but failed to detonate and ploughed through the water to strike the ship below the waterline. They also scored 60mm rocket hits on the vessel which returned to sea and replied with its 100mm cannon in the bows.

Lieutenant Mills surrendered after the Argentines, despite losing a second

helicopter, had landed more than 100 men and had cut off the British line of retreat. He walked down to the beach holding a coat with white lining and told the Argentine marine commander that he and his men had achieved their main objective.

"We had forced the Argentines to take South Georgia by military action. They could not possibly say that they marched in without any military resistance".

Fifteen scientists still in hiding on South Georgia are becoming increasingly worried for their own safety (the Press Association reports).

The group and two women film makers - Cindy Buxton and Annie Price - believe the Argentines may try to use them as a lever in negotiations, according to Dr Ray Adie, deputy director of the British Antarctic Survey.

Insurers think papal visit is off

By David Hewson

Lloyd's insurance underwriters believe that the Pope's visit will be called off because of the Falklands crisis. By last night, only one underwriter was offering contingency cover against the cancellation of the tour and that was at the rate of 20 per cent premium of the amount covered.

Before the crisis, many underwriters were accepting cover on the basis of a three to five per cent premium, but, according to the director of the main brokers involved, many businesses facing large losses because of a cancellation remain uncovered.

Mr John Kelvey Brown, a director of the broking firm Adams, thought to have handled the bulk of the contingency insurance for the visit, has placed £2m, compared with £12m spent on contingency insurance for the Royal Wedding.

The £2m spent on the Pope's visit was mainly from large companies involved in the sale of mementoes. Mr Kelvey Brown said that catering firms and companies dealing with the travel arrangements for the visit were among the larger groups still uncovered.

"A lot of people have a lot of money riding on this visit. They could be left with a lot of worthless trinkets and souvenirs on their hands."

The £2m placed through Adams could represent a total loss of up to about £60m for the Lloyd's market in the event of a cancellation. But brokers now believe that the pay-out would be much less. The companies would only recompense manufacturers for unsold stock, and sales could still reach healthy levels.

Deals burnt, page 3
Polish visit, page 7
Falkland insurance, page 15

MPs allowed three votes on return of hanging

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has decided that the House of Commons should be allowed a special one-day debate, with as many as three votes, on capital punishment before the end of next month.

The debate would be taken on amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill, which is now due to return to the Commons for its report stage.

Mr Vivian Bandal, Conservative MP for Miford, North, last night tabled three separate amendments, one to reintroduce capital punishment for the murder of policemen and prison warders, another for terrorists who kill in the course of terrorist acts, and another for armed robbers who murder in the course of committing their crimes.

Normally, such amendments would not be allocated one day for debate and

division of the House. But Mr Whitelaw has decided that the rules should be altered, because of the sensitivity of such a unique issue.

Pressure for a fresh debate and vote has been overshadowed by the Falkland crisis, but the Police Federation advertised in The Times and four other national newspapers last month, asking for public support for the return of capital punishment.

Mr Bandal said at the time that Parliament should be given another chance to vote on the issue because of the sharp increase in crimes of violence, including those against police.

The last vote on the death penalty was taken in the Commons in July 1979, when it was rejected by 362 votes to 243.

If the Commons decides to reverse that view on any of Mr Bandal's amendments,

something which is not expected, then the Home Office would come forward with a new Bill to implement the expressed wish of the House.

Mr Bandal said last night that he had decided to go for three separate amendments because previous Commons votes had been across the board and that had proved an obstacle for some MPs who would have wanted capital punishment for the murder of policemen, but did not want to see the return of the death penalty for other murder offences.

He said: "There are some MPs who do not want capital punishment for terrorists, for fear of making martyrs."

He thought that majorities against capital punishment for terrorists, killing in the pursuit of their crimes, would be higher.

Doubts on murder conviction

By Frances Gibb

Serious doubts over the conviction of Paul Clelland, a Stevenage decorator serving a 20-year sentence for murder, are disclosed in a special investigation by The Times published today.

Inconsistencies in police evidence, and an extraordinary sequence of errors in prison records have led MPs, lawyers and now an independent forensic scientist to support the case for a retrial.

The Home Office has already produced its own confidential report on the discrepancies, which it refuses to publish. Mr Bowen Wells, Conservative MP for Hertford and Stevenage, said yesterday that he was calling on the Home Secretary to release the report to "shed light on some of the most worrying aspects of this case".

Case for a retrial, page 9

Israeli curbs on Sinai reporting anger media

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, April 20

The Israeli Government has become involved in a bitter clash with all sections of the media and with foreign journalists as a result of its determination to restrict reporting of the final evacuation of occupied Sinai.

Last night Israel television main news bulletin halted for a minute to protest at the military restrictions and today's newspapers appeared with a coordinated black space on their front pages in a similar protest.

Later, a delegation representing Israeli editors and the local journalists' association was forcibly turned back at an Army roadblock where members attempted to enter Sinai without permits.

Judges in the High Court in Jerusalem rejected an appeal by the Foreign Press Association against the new orders barring coverage of the emotional Sinai evacuation, in which more than 2,000 dachshunds will be removed.

The association represents some 200 foreign reporters and television men working in Israel.

Among the Sinai protesters is a group of about 20 zealots from the extreme right-wing Kash movement who have been threatening to commit mass suicide in a large air raid shelter which they have fortified and equipped with emergency rations.

Tomorrow, their Brooklyn-born leader, Rabbi Meir Kahane, is expected to arrive from New York in a last-ditch effort to persuade his young followers to abandon their death threat.

Even papers often sympathetic to the Government have spoken out strongly.

Today, the state-controlled Israel Radio - whose own reporter described how he had evaded capture by the security forces - disclosed that 12 foreign journalists had barricaded themselves in one of the abandoned apartments in the town.

The reporters issued a statement to the army threatening to resist eviction if they were not allowed to freely report the removal of the dachshunds.

The United States vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning recent shooting incidents on Jerusalem's Temple Mount as "appalling acts of sacrilege". The vote was 14 in favour and one against but the negative vote by the United States killed the draft.

Ministers to quit, page 6

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Hattersley firm on dismissal of racist police

By Richard Evans

Mr Roy Hattersley MP last night defended his promise to dismiss policemen found guilty of racism if he becomes Home Secretary in the next Labour government, after fierce criticism from police leaders.

Chief Supt John Keyte, national secretary of the Police Superintendents' Association, yesterday called the pledge frightening and said there was no justification for one group of workers to have a fixed penalty of dismissal hanging over their heads.

Mr Jim Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, which represented junior and middle-ranking officers, said he was in total disagreement with Mr Hattersley and welcomed the firm stand by the superintendents' organization.

Mr Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, said in a speech at the weekend that if he held office a police officer guilty of racialist behaviour "will be a police officer no longer".

Last night he added: "I would have thought the police would have agreed with the views expressed by myself and Lord Scarman that the dismissal of officers found guilty of racism is crucial to improving the relationship between them and ethnic minorities in this country."

Mr Keyte said: "The police are not guilty of racism and we do this under the existing discipline code."

The position of Home Secretary carried a duty and responsibility to act as the final appeal court against either a guilty finding or sentence under the discipline code. To commence a duty with such strong convictions.

The Commons is to investigate the possibility of finding private finance to construct a new parliamentary building at Westminster.

The plans, for which private backing is to be sought, were presented to Parliament in 1979 by Sir Hugh Casson and Mr David Ramsay; they are for development of the Bridge Street site opposite the Commons and Big Ben.

The scheme was vetoed by the Prime Minister in 1980 because of the cost, then estimated at £122m over a decade. But a report issued by the Select Committee on House of Commons Services yesterday recommended that the idea should be resurrected.

A resolution endorsed by Mr Francis Pym on March 30, when he was Leader of the House, agreed that a sub-committee should "undertake an inquiry into the feasibility of, and the advantages derived from, securing the assistance of private funds, in whole or in part, of the implementation of Sir Hugh Casson's plans for the development of the Bridge Street site."

Letters, page 13

Electricity men get wage claim warning

By Donald Macintyre

The Central Electricity Generating Board has warned its 60,000 industrial and white-collar employees that continued wage settlements at the level of the past few years will endanger the industry's future.

Mr John Baker, the board's commercial member, has told the industry's national house newspaper *Power News* that "excessive pay settlements this year can only worsen the board's position to the detriment of our staff". His comments may be seen by unions officials as an attempt to influence the course of the present ballot among 35,000 manual workers on an 8.5 per cent offer.

The board, however, appears more seriously concerned about the possible effects of a confrontation with its 25,000 power engineers who are dismayed about what they say is the erosion of differentials over their manual colleagues.

Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, told his union's conference earlier this month that industrial action was "very possibly unavoidable" if the Electricity Council, the employers' negotiating body, failed to improve differentials.

Mr Baker says in his interview that over the last five years average earnings in the industry have risen more than prices and electricity costs, while the working week has been cut to 37 hours.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, yesterday promised backing for Kent miners in their fight to keep open the threatened Smeaton colliery. Mr Tom McGee, the union's mining engineer, is to undertake an "appraisal" of the colliery with the aim of producing a plan to maintain at least 700 of the 850 jobs at the pit.

Union leaders representing the country's 17,000 ambulance men expected a pay offer worth 5 per cent for this year. The ambulance men will be asked to join industrial action called by the Confederation of Health Service Employees and recommended by the National Union of Public Employees. The offer is a 4 per cent plus £1.3m for transferring ambulance men to "salariat" status.

Daily Mail members of the National Union of Journalists have accepted a pay deal said by management to yield increases of between 5 and 7 per cent plus an extra week's holiday. Executives had to produce last Friday's issue because of 24-hour mandatory meetings of NUJ members in London and Manchester.

About 140 BBC journalists employed at Lime Grove, Shepherd's Bush, West London, on current affairs programmes, joined 100 colleagues in television news in a work-to-rule over pay and conditions (a Staff Reporter writes). They say that unless they are granted urgent talks with the management, programmes like *Nightwatch* will be off the air within a week, and the BBC's plans for breakfast television threatened.



Mr George Howard, chairman of the BBC, with Miss Clair Bloom at the reception before a Foyle's luncheon yesterday in honour of Miss Bloom, whose autobiography was published recently.

Anger over command bunker on trust land

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The National Trust has decided to allow the Ministry of Defence to build an underground bunker on its land, to house the main communications centre for the air defence of the United Kingdom. The decision has plunged the trust into deep internal controversy, with some members calling for a special meeting to have the decision reversed.

The trust declined to comment yesterday about its long bargaining with the ministry but it is understood to be ready to sign a lease with strict conditions. These are thought to involve access for lorries during building and restoration of the steep Chiltern landscape, once construction has finished.

The bunker, which will be covered by a mound 30ft high, will replace the 40-year-old underground communications centre at nearby RAF High Wycombe. The new unit will provide a command headquarters for RAF Strike Command and for the Nato command of United Kingdom air forces.

'Innovative' IBA chief

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr John Whitney, the managing director of Capital Radio, who was yesterday appointed to the £40,000 a year post of director-general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, is one of the radio industry's most colourful characters.

His name had not been listed among the half-dozen candidates for the job, but in becoming only the third director-general of the authority, succeeding Sir Brian Young next October, he will be warmly welcomed on all sides of radio and television.

Mr Whitney, aged 51, became managing director of Capital Radio in 1973, having earlier been associated with

Video copies cause loss of £750,000

Five leading film and video companies have lost £750,000 through an operation based around a video counterfeiting factory, the High Court was told yesterday.

The factory, above a betting shop in Northampton, contained 46 recorders producing copies of films such as *Superman*, *10*, and *Water-ship Down*. Mr Robin Jacob, QC, told the court. They were made under a court order by the companies' agents.

In what is thought to be the biggest case of alleged video piracy so far, more than a dozen individuals and companies have been bound by a variety of undertakings and court orders granted over the last fortnight not to continue their operations or remove any assets. New orders were made by Mr Justice Whitford yesterday, who also ordered a company of distributors to disclose details of tape sales, worth £104,000, to the operation.

The companies bringing the action are all members of the British Videogram Association, which claims that more than half the pirated video tapes sold in Britain are pirated.



Sale to test art market

By Geraldine Norman

An important Renaissance portrait which cannot be exported from Britain is to be offered for sale at Sotheby's today. It is an unprecedented test of the internal art market. The painting above is a portrait attributed to Alessandro Allori of a handsome young Florentine holding a cello.

It is acquired by Baroness Amstel de Kooten, a Dutch heiress, who is passing on the marriage of his daughter Hannah to the Rosebery collection, and was thus among the treasures of the Marquess of Salisbury's collection for Lord Rosebery in 1977. The price then was £38,500.

The Government had combed the Marquess collection for "national treasures" before the auction and it was a fair assumption that the rest could be freely exported. Not so. Mr Bradford Walker, of Long Island, United States, purchased the Allori and applied for an export licence. It was refused to allow British institutions two months to find the purchase price.

A two-month stop is exceptionally short and an indication that this was not an important political issue. The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, found the purchase price, however, and offered to buy. Mr Walker refused to sell.

Under the rules the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art were then operating, the penalty for that was an indefinite export ban. That appears to mean that the committee will not consider reopening the case until 1987, save for some material change in circumstances.

Sale room, page 14

Science report

Tracing the origin of ancient artefacts

By the staff of "Nature"

Traces of lead and ancient copper and bronze artefacts are revealing the origins of the metal from which the objects were made, two Oxford archaeologists have announced.

Noel Gale of the Department of Geology and Mineralogy and his wife Zofia Stos-Gale of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, have developed a technique which makes use of the so-called "isotopic composition" of the lead traces.

Copper ores from different mines have different isotopic compositions, so an investigator can distinguish which mine produced the metal contained in a particular object.

"Isotopic compositions" are an advance on previous methods of trace metal analysis because they are unaffected by chemical treatment, such as the smelting which reduces an ore to the metal.

Isotopes are atoms of exactly the same chemical nature, but slightly different weights (they have differing numbers of neutrons in the atomic nucleus). These weights can be distinguished by modern techniques, but were all treated alike by ancient technology.

Previously the Gales have worked with Aegean silver, which contains large lead impurities, and have shown that much of it came from a single mine, Laurion in Attica. The dominance of the Laurion silver mine in classical times was known from historical evidence, but it was a surprise to find that it also played a major role much earlier.

But a greater surprise has come with the Gales' work on copper and bronze (which is technically more difficult as the lead content is much smaller). They find that of 22 Aegean artefacts analysed, half also came from Laurion.

It was previously unknown that Laurion played a great role in copper production as well as in silver. The great prize now, however, must be the analysis of the ox-hide ingots of copper, which are found in Cyprus, Crete, Sicily and Sardinia, and also seen in Egyptian tomb paintings. These represented a major Bronze Age trade in metal; but there is still great controversy over the origin and movement of the ingots.

Applied to them, the Oxford isotopic method may produce yet more archaeological surprises. Source: *Science* (vol. 216, p. 111) 1982. © Nature-Times News Service, (1982).

Fewer opt for private education

By Diana Geddes

The number of pupils attending the 1,300 public and preparatory schools belonging to the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) has fallen for the first time since the service started carrying out its national census eight years ago.

Figures released yesterday by Isis, which represents half of all independent schools in Britain and three-quarters of the pupils, indicate that the total number of pupils at member schools fell this year by about 4,000 to just over 400,000. The drop might have been much bigger had there not been an addition for the first time of nearly 100 pupils under the Government's assisted places scheme.

Mr Tim Devlin, director of Isis, pointed out that the 4,000 reduction represented a drop of only 1 per cent compared with a drop in the total school population of 2½ per cent. Mr Devlin said that the independent schools with their predominance of pupils in social classes 1 and 2, were probably less affected by the fall in the birth rate than state schools.

"The drop is to be expected in view of increasing inflation and the fact that many parents' pockets have been hit by recession and redundancies," Mr Devlin said. "It is surprising that numbers have held up as well as they have, given the economic conditions that they appear to have held up well in the sixth form."

The survey indicates that average fees at Headmasters' Conference (HMC) schools (the top 210 predominantly boys' public schools) are now just over £3,300 a year for boarding.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$4.50; Canada \$4.50; Hong Kong \$4.50; India \$4.50; Japan \$4.50; New Zealand \$4.50; Singapore \$4.50; South Africa \$4.50; Switzerland \$4.50; Taiwan \$4.50; Thailand \$4.50; USA \$4.50; West Germany \$4.50; Yugoslavia \$4.50.

Chemicals were 'wrongly buried'

The decision to bury chemicals at Craigmillar in Edinburgh was wrong, it was admitted yesterday at a committee meeting to investigate the explosion they caused in a council refuse tip last month.

Dr Jag Cook, of the environmental safety group at Harwell, said it was unfortunate that the barrels from a demolished fireworks factory were buried together. It was likely that the combination of magnesium and sulphur had reacted and exploded. The last barrel was dug up last night.

Island sold for £30,000

A Cardiff college principal Mrs Meir Llewellyn, aged 39, was told yesterday that her bid of just over £30,000 had brought her the ownership of the 14 acre Sully Island 500 yards from the mainland, near Cardiff.

As she and the students at her private careers college celebrated with champagne, she revealed plans for a £250,000 health farm on the island.

Third child dies after house fire

A third child has died after the fire which swept through a Council house in Durham on Monday. Paul Grainger, aged 10 months, died at Middlesbrough General Hospital early today.

His brother Gary, aged five, died in the fire at the family home in Cumberland Place, Newton Aycliffe, and his sister Kathy, aged two, died soon afterwards.

Action over cars on pavements

Motorists who park on the pavement in central London could face prosecution and a bill for damages this summer. Westminster City Council has decided to enforce the law which makes it an offence to drive on to pedestrian areas.

The council said damaged pavements were a big problem, especially for the blind, handicapped and parents with pushchairs. Letters, page 13

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Severely handicapped and 82, practical sympathy was Florries need.

Try to imagine her predicament, for there are too many others with as great a problem. Arthritis and a minor stroke oblige her to use a walking frame. She is also blind.

Kind neighbours helped on a rota basis, and meals on wheels came three times a week. But for the rest Florrie had to cope for months until finally a place in a residential home was found for her. Others in similar great need aren't so lucky. Struggling with disability they have also had to struggle at the very time when life should be a little easier.

Frail old people like this deserve something better. This is why Help the Aged's work so badly needs more funds — to provide more flats, medical aid, day centres for the lonely, minibuses for volunteer transport for the housebound.

Whether you can send £5 or £500 it will be carefully used to give genuine help to old people in great need. Thanks to many willing volunteers each pound achieves a great deal. Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

Time is not on the side of the old. If you are, please send generously to:

Hon. Treasurer,
The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King

Help the Aged

Room T5, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ.

(No stamp needed)

Tory 'money back' pledge to voters

If the Conservatives regain power in Manchester at the city council elections next month, every ratepayer will be given a rate cut of 10 per cent, the party promised yesterday (our Manchester Correspondent writes).

Councillor Cecil Franks, leader of the Conservative group, said his party was committed to reversing the rate increase introduced this month by the controlling Labour group. The Tories' election slogan would be: "Vote Conservative and get your money back."

The money would be found by halving the council's planned spending programme and speeding up sales. About 7,000 people wanted to buy their council homes.

The Conservatives also

LOCAL ELECTIONS

promise to close three big council departments — planning, architecture and estates — and pass to the private sector the management of property, houses, land, street cleaning and refuse services. They believe that private enterprise will be cheaper and provide a better service.

"We are not seeking a confrontation with the trade unions," Councillor Franks said, "but if it comes, we will not shrink from it."

London electors were yesterday exhorted to vote for Labour councillors as people who would protect and develop

schools and colleges, (David Walker writes). Mr Neil Kinnock MP, the Labour Party's education spokesman, told a press conference that "in spite of severe cuts, the Labour-controlled outer London authorities have managed to sustain levels of educational provision better than their Tory counterparts."

He quoted comparative figures showing that most of the London education authorities controlled by Labour employed more teachers; provided more nursery classes; and supplied free milk to younger children after the Government stopped subsidizing it.

Private employers should urge their employees to vote in the municipal elections

only for those candidates pledged to a wholesale reform of the rating system that will give business people some voice in local authority affairs, Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors, said.

The Scottish National Party will have more candidates than the Liberal-SDP Alliance, and only one fewer than the Conservatives, at Scottish regional elections, (The Press Association reports). Returns show that there will be 1,309 candidates for the 410 contested seats for 12 regional and islands authorities. Another 110 candidates have been returned unopposed.

For both England and Scotland the total of candidates for contested seats is 15,690.

Lothian: Rates loom large in cliff-hanger

From Jonathan Wills, Edinburgh

"No, I don't think it will be more bitter than usual," Councillor John Mulvey says, surveying the battlefield for the Lothian Regional Council elections on May 6. Mr Mulvey should know. He is secretary of the Labour group which is defending a majority of one seat.

Disputes with central Government culminated last year in a £30m cut in rate support grant, imposed by the Secretary of State for Scotland as a punishment for "excessive and unreasonable" council spending which had led to a 250 per cent rates increase over four years.

Lothian's Labour administration, battered by internal disputes on tactics over the cuts, is nonetheless confident that it will be returned with an increased majority to confound the Government and vindicate the council's policy of high spending on areas of social need.

Others are not so sure. The election has been called a cliff-hanger and there are predictions that the Social Democratic Party/Liberal Alliance will hold the balance of power.

The SDP has one seat, held by Mr Peter Wilson, a prominent Labour defector. With the help of the Liberals, the Alliance now has an impressive organization but it needs to make a big breakthrough to get more than half a dozen councillors. In a contest dominated by local issues, the national appeal of the Alliance after Hillhead may not be quite enough.

Labour's 1982-1983 budget for Lothian claims that most domestic ratepayers will be asked to pay less than 40p a week extra for the partial restoration of the services which have been most badly damaged by the cuts. For example, home helps will be reinstated and schools

at Hillhead, the nationalist vote is a potent force. Because several Scottish Executive ministers hold Edinburgh seats, Lothian is the focus of attention in the Scottish local elections. If the Tories cannot do well in Scotland's capital at a time when Scottish industrialists are starting to be less pessimistic about the economy, then they are in serious trouble.

Labour, called big overspenders by the Lothian Ratepayers' Action Group Executive (RAGE) replies that the Government picked the fight in the first place.

Councillor Mulvey plans to use a barrage of statistics in the campaign, including the calculation that the Government's share of local authority expenditure has dropped from 62 per cent of the total to 43 per cent in six years.

Tomorrow: West Midlands

Science report

Tracing the origin of ancient artefacts

By the staff of "Nature"

Traces of lead and ancient copper and bronze artefacts are revealing which of the metal objects made two Oxford archaeologists have announced.

Dr Gale of the Department of Geology and the Oxford Museum, Oxford, has developed a technique which makes use of the "isotopic composition" of the lead in the artefacts. The technique is based on the fact that lead from different sources has different isotopic compositions. By analysing the isotopic composition of the lead in an artefact, it is possible to trace its origin.

Dr Gale's technique has been used to analyse a number of ancient artefacts, including a bronze dagger from the 15th century BC. The analysis showed that the lead in the dagger came from a source in the Iberian Peninsula, which was a major source of lead for the ancient world.

Dr Gale's technique is a major advance in the study of ancient artefacts, as it allows archaeologists to trace the origin of the metal used in the artefacts. This information is valuable in understanding the trade routes and the sources of raw materials used by ancient civilisations.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Reservoir inquiry for third time

A third public inquiry opened in Devon yesterday into the plan to build a 700-acre reservoir at Roadford, to the west of Dartmoor (Craig Seton writes).

Years of uncertainty have surrounded the plan and opposing interests remain. The plan was originally intended as part of the South West Water Authority's strategy up to the year 2011.

The public inquiry, at Okehampton, was ordered by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. Although he now accepts that the reservoir should be at Roadford, he has asked that its size should be reconsidered and that is the only issue now to be decided.

At yesterday's hearing, however, Mr Peter Mills, Conservative MP for West Devon, asked the inquiry inspector to recommend that the reservoir should not be on valuable farmland. The Dartmoor Preservation Society is keeping a watching brief.

Southend cells for skinhead

A new approach to sentencing Bank holiday trouble makers was adopted by Southend magistrates yesterday. Instead of being fined heavily or sent to prison one young London skinhead was ordered to stay in the local police cells until Saturday to give him time to reflect on his behaviour.

Gary Guymer, aged 17, unemployed, of Nelson Road, Clapham Common, who gave Nazi salutes on the seafront last Easter Monday, pleaded guilty to threatening behaviour.

Playing boy was hanged by chain

An accidental death verdict was recorded at an inquest at Hoxsey yesterday on Jeffrey Palmer, aged 14, of Burford Gardens, Palmer's Green, London, who hanged himself with a chain attached to a loft ladder while playing.

Alexander McGuire, aged 14, with whom he had been playing, of Overham Road, Palmer's Green, said he warned Jeffrey of the dangers.

Prince to dive again

The Prince of Wales will make two dives next week, making a total of 10, to the Tudor warship Mary Rose which sank off Southsea, Hampshire, in 1545. He will be accompanied by the former King Constantine of Greece who has also dived on the wreck before.

The Prince's visit coincides with the start of a month's archaeological excavation by 20 volunteer divers.

ITV pays £4.5m for 'Superman'

Independent television is buying the first two Superman films for £4.5m (about £2,250,000) each. They will be screened next year in a package of six box office successes.

Jane set a record commercial television of 23 million and 10 million for the third time. The independent channel also has Star Wars and Jaws II in its line-up.

Wheelchair boy dies in river

A handicapped boy drowned yesterday after his wheelchair slipped into the River Trent at Barborough, near Nottingham. The body of the boy, who was not named, was recovered, still in the wheelchair, from 10ft of water by a team of police frogmen. Police are investigating how the tragedy happened.

Orkney bells on sea voyage

The three bells of Orkney's 800-year-old Cathedral of St Magnus have been shipped to the mainland for restoration after being lowered 90ft from the tower.

The two smaller bells were cast in Edinburgh in 1528. The largest, which weighs 1,420lb, was cast in Amsterdam in 1682. The restoration work will be carried out by the foundry firm John Taylor of Loughborough (Leicester).

Research jobs saved

Two of Britain's top agricultural research stations, due to be closed or phased down, have been spared, but 110 jobs will still go at the Animal Breeding Research Organisation at Edinburgh and 47 at the Long Ashton Research Station in Bristol. Originally 250 jobs were to go.

Airlift for seaman

A Chinese seaman with a head injury was airlifted to hospital in Canterbury by helicopter yesterday after an incident on board a Panamanian refrigeration ship in the Channel.

Labour designs a wage deal for all workers

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Perth

A deal on wage bargaining designed to make Labour's general election manifesto more attractive to the political middle ground is taking shape in talks between party leaders and the TUC.

Progress between the two wings of the Labour movement on a "national economic assessment" that would affect pay claims was disclosed yesterday after the Scottish TUC judged the issue of income policy during the economic debate.

The conference went on to approve its traditional stance of opposition to incomes policies. Delegates overwhelmingly approved a resolution tabled by the left-wing led Technical Administrative, and Supervisory section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers that argued against wage controls, but moderate members of the TUC General Council were last night arguing privately that this formal policy decision by the STUC would not halt the talks with the Labour Party at national level.

Mr David Barnett, chairman of the TUC economic committee, argued that it was essential to achieve flexible understanding on wages with a prospective Labour government to meet the requirements of different groups of workers within the framework of a nationally negotiated economic policy.

The main elements of such a deal now under discussion are an extension of the principle of pay indexation - already operating for the firemen - in the public sector so that the pay of key workers is tied to salary movement in private industry.

Mr Barnett told The Times: "We have to have priorities in the distribution of the gross national product, but there is no case for a rigid, structured incomes policy. There is a very strong case for accepting trade union involvement in an annual economic assessment. That involvement will influence bargaining."

Trade unions will be seeking, as well, legislation from a Labour government to provide minimum conditions returning some things we have already lost and giving

others that we have not yet achieved.

Mr Barnett, who is strongly influencing talks aimed at reaching an agreement for an early election manifesto, added: "The essential thing is to build up an understanding which allows negotiators the flexibility they need to solve their individual needs while taking account of the agreed national economic assessment."

Failure to do this and to attempt to introduce a rigid incomes policy would, as it has always done, blow up in the faces of the government and the trade unions after two years."

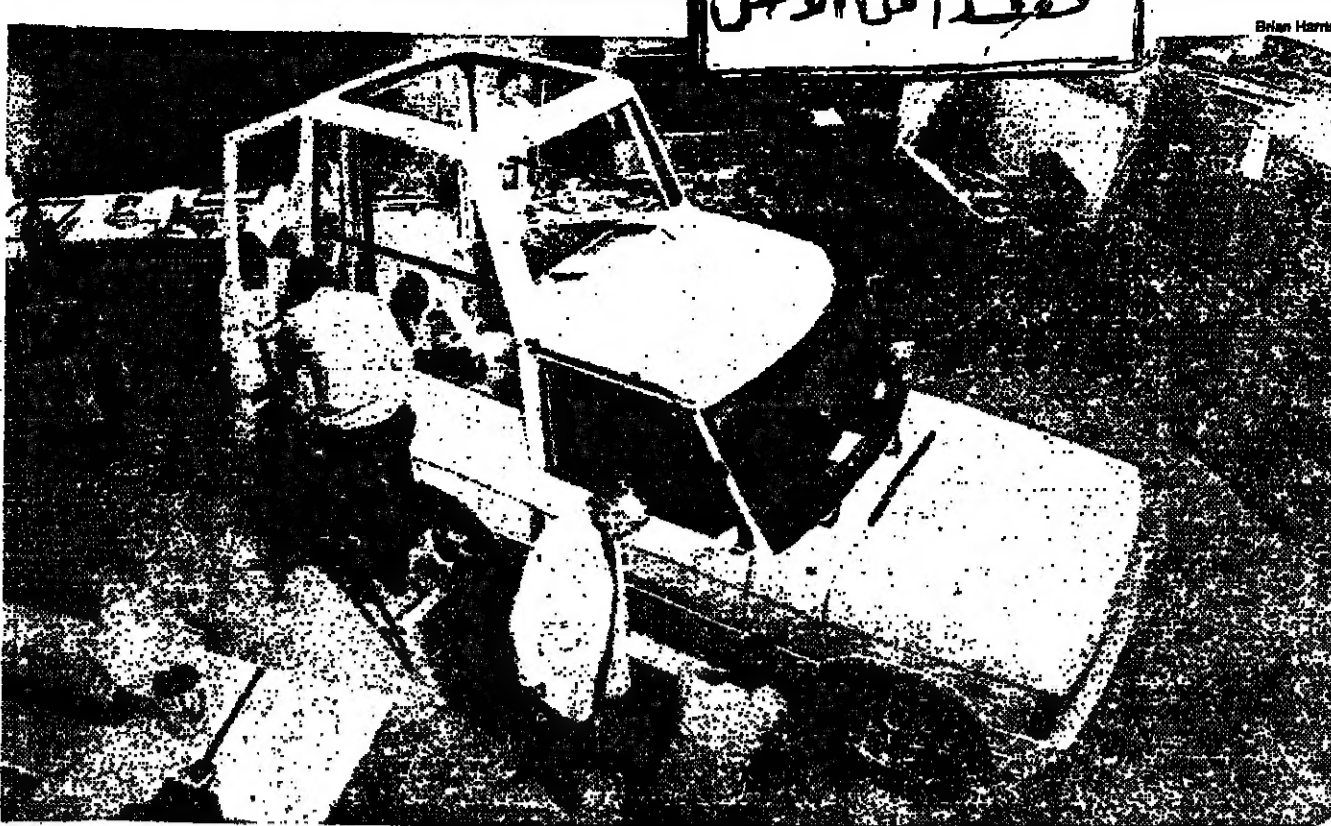
Those moves towards an incomes policy have attracted hostility from the left. In an unpublished clash during the TUC economic committee meeting two weeks ago, Mr Ken Gill, Communist leader of the engineering white collar workers, accused moderate unions of working towards a wage restraint programme in defiance of the TUC's official policy of free collective bargaining.

Those divisions came out in public yesterday at the Scottish TUC conference at Perth as Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, insisted that Labour's economic strategy must encompass wages."

Delegates unanimously endorsed the 15-point alternative economic strategy which Mr Weighell said would not command the confidence of the electorate unless it included wages. "You will not deserve to be believed, and you will not get power either," he said. The NUR leader was supported by Mr Alan Tiffin, general secretary-elect of the Union of Communication Workers, who told the conference: "You know as well as I do there is no such thing as free collective bargaining."

The STUC condemned government policies on the economy, "which are destroying large sections of industry, crippling communities and impoverishing millions of people" and called for the early return of a Labour government committed to the alternative economic strategy.

That strategy would involve capital exports; planning agreements with "foreign" nations; nationalisation; and an extension of the National Enterprise Board; immediate and substantial reductions in public spending; investment in housing, railways, the health service and inner cities; import controls; help for manufacturing industry using the profits of North Sea oil, reduced arms spending, a wealth tax and cheaper energy for industry.



Engineers from Ogle Design, Letchworth, converting a Range Rover to carry the Pope during his visit. The vehicle is one of two to be fitted with bullet-proof windows and armour plating, and will be used in the procession to accompany the six-wheeled Popemobile.

Police investigate burning of papal dais

Police are investigating a fire which yesterday destroyed a specially constructed dais in Pontcanna Fields, Cardiff from which the Pope was to have addressed an expected 350,000 people on the last day of his visit to Britain (Tim Jones writes).

Three youths were seen running away from the dais which had almost been completed at a cost of £115,000. Yesterday, forensic scientists were sifting through the embers. Until the attack security patrols had guarded

the structure until the late evening, but now a 24-hour guard will be mounted as it is rebuilt.

Mr John Mumford, groundsman at the fields said: "There was damage to the dais last week. Someone tried putting tar on the panels and tried to light fires near it."

Det Chief Supt Don Carsley, head of the South Wales CID said: "We are treating this as an act of criminal damage and would like to interview the three youths who were seen running away."

Cardiff has a large Roman Catholic community which is fully integrated into its society and there have been few public misgivings about the papal visit.

Doubts still remained yesterday whether Harlech Television would be able to proceed with its ambitious plans to cover the event after the refusal by members of the association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians to complete identity forms as requested by the church authorities.

Dispute over Salerno mutiny

New challenge to ministry's version of events

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence was challenged yesterday over its version of wartime events almost 40 years ago which it issued with its recent decision not to grant a pardon to 189 British soldiers convicted of mutiny at Salerno, Italy, in 1943.

Controversy over the men's case has been revived since a BBC television documentary in February highlighted their plight. They were part of a contingent of 1,500 of General Montgomery's 8th Army troops brought from North Africa as reinforcements to assist the 46th and 56th Divisions in the crucial battle at Salerno for a foothold on the Italian mainland.

The television programme alleged that the men had been recovering from wounds suffered in Sicily and had been promised a return to their own units, a promise which was broken. They admitted disobeying a senior officer but denied it was mutiny.

The case was raised with the Ministry of Defence by MPs after the programme was screened. Mr Jerry Wiggin, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, concluded in a letter to Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, earlier this month that, after research by officials, there were no grounds for reopening the case.

In an account of the events Mr Wiggin said there was nothing in the contemporary proceedings of the trial or in official records held by the Ministry to suggest that the men were misled about their eventual destination, and that no evidence had been brought forward that any of those convicted were unfit to fight.

Yesterday, however, those and other conclusions of Mr Wiggin's letter were challenged in letters sent to the Ministry by Mr Morris from Mr Alan Patient, producer of the BBC documentary, and Lee, who was the main prosecution witness at the court martial, had stated that only he and two other officers knew their destination, and that nobody else was to be told.

Mr Patient suggests that the ministry documents about the despatch of the reinforcements are "possibly suspect."

On the vital point concerning injuries, Mr Patient again quotes Captain Lee, who said on film: "We don't know what orders were given to the commandant of the 155th transport camp (from where the reinforcements were drafted) and therefore whether he got a little windy possibly, and if he did he perhaps had not got 1500 people in his camp and therefore people were then drafted from the hospitals and, as I said, ... came from the convalescent home."

Mr Patient said that Captain Lee was himself so unable to fight that he had to report sick at Salerno.

For about two months the figures will be calculated to ensure that authors receive their maximum entitlement and to see that the registrar underpays not overpays. Each year, in the autumn, as the Act demands, Parliament will approve the rate per loan. In the last quarter of the financial year, between January and March, payments will be made.

The amount initially available to recompense authors is £2m but that may be increased. No author will be able to earn more than £5,000 annually. The rate per loan is envisaged as 1/2p according to the number of books part and the cash available.

Every time Chips Barber sells a copy of his book about Exeter Forest his mortgage goes down. (Our Exeter Correspondent writes.)

When Mr Barber, an Exeter teacher, wanted money to publish his book he went to his building society and they lent him £3,000 which they added to his mortgage.

Tocsin sounds for the barn owl

By Tony Samson

The barn owl is one of nature's emblematic when most people think about it, at all, something very like a barn owl is probably what they see.

More's the pity, then, that the World Wildlife Fund should be sounding the tocsin for this of all species with the announcement that its numbers are decreasing at an alarming rate in Britain and much of Europe with a population crash imminent if not inevitable.

Not so coincidentally, the RSPB (RSPB) has launched a nest-box scheme for barn owls. "Undoubtedly one of the underlying causes of their disappearance is that many traditional nest sites in very old trees and derelict buildings have been lost," the society writes. "Brick and timber barns are being replaced by modern steel-framed structures."

Statistics are incomplete but dire. One survey completed in the early 1970s suggest that the number of barn owls in Britain might have halved in 40 years. Later studies have shown the rate of loss accelerating in the past decade or so. Intensive farming and the use of pesticides are also blamed for the decline.

Dr Ian Taylor of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Edinburgh University, sees the trend to monoculture cereal production, the removal of rough ground and wetlands as contributing to a further loss of habitat.

His studies have also uncovered a curious relationship between habitat and mortality. "Mortality of adults seems to occur mostly in winter coinciding with deep snow cover," he says.

The rate of mortality seemed to be related to climate "so that it falls most highly on the birds on sheepwalk, and much less on the birds on lowland farms".

Dr Taylor thinks lowland areas are probably more promising for nest-site schemes, and he suggests that the large plastic drums



Barn owl: loss of habitat is threatening its existence.

available on most farms might make suitable nest boxes. Old barrels and packing cases would also be suitable, according to the RSPB, which offer advice and instructions for installing them.

In 1976 there were thought to be between 4,500 and 9,000 pairs of barn owls in the British Isles. Most farmers, who in the past have welcomed the birds as natural agents of pest control, would probably consider these figures as optimistic as they are vague.

An irony of the nest-site scheme is that those who participate in it could inadvertently be breaking the law.

"The barn owl is included on Schedule 1 of the Protection of Birds Act," the RSPB says. "This means that both the bird and its eggs are specially protected by law, and if you intend to visit your nest boxes, you must obtain a special government permit."

"If you see that the box is occupied early in the breeding season, it is probably best to watch from a safe distance, thus avoiding disturbing the birds and the needs to become involved in such legalities."

Details of the scheme are available from RSPB, 10 Richmond Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 4JA.

Shop fined over leopard skin coat

From Our Correspondent Manchester

Animal lovers are launching a national campaign to stop illegal trading in furs after the successful prosecution yesterday of a fur shop for trying to sell a leopard skin coat.

The coat, priced at £3,999, was seen in the window of Raimond Furs, King Street, Manchester, by a member of the Protection and Conservation of Animals and Plant-life group (PCAP).

Mr Daniel Lindsay, the group's European secretary, posed as a potential customer and got a written estimate of the coat's price from a shop assistant.

The estimate was used in evidence in yesterday's private prosecution brought by the group against the Bankruptcy Firm Company, the shop's owners.

Mr Brian Woodhams, for the prosecution, told Liverpool magistrates: "People in this country and throughout the world are desperately concerned about the wholesale slaughter and destruction of animals whose extinction will be forever. This trade is a further step towards the total annihilation of endangered species."

The company admitted the offence and received a fine of £750, the biggest to be imposed under the Endangered Species Act, 1976.

Mr Stephen Fox, for the company, said an administrative error left the firm open to prosecution. "This coat existed before the 1976 Act and it was offered for sale without a licence. But this was not a conspiracy to get round the act, to flout the law nor to endanger any animals."

Mr Lindsay said that the case allowed his 5,000 members in Britain to launch a national campaign to stop the sale of all coats made from the skins of endangered animals.

He said: "Most in danger are the big cats - the leopard, tiger and panther. Many skins are smuggled into Britain and made up into coats for sale here and for export to Europe. But now our members will be calling at fur shops in Britain to make sure that any coats made from protected species have the necessary documents for sale."

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Therm-A-Stor	20mm	Aluminium with Plastic Thermal Break	2.2	254%	
Weathersal	20mm	Aluminium with Plastic Thermal Break	2.9	193%	LEADED WINDOWS
Coldshield	12mm	Aluminium with Plastic Thermal Break	3.0	187%	
Everest	20mm	Aluminium with Plastic Thermal Break	3.3	170%	RESIDENTIAL & PATIO DOORS
Anglian*	9.5mm	Aluminium	3.7	151%	

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Pyro Washington: snags in Argentine plan

FALKLANDS

Mr. Frank, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, is going to Washington on Thursday to discuss the Falkland Islands with the Argentine Government. Mr. Frank said that the British Government was seeking to put the Falkland Islands in the hands of the Prime Minister, Mr. Margaret Thatcher, during the visit to the Falkland Islands. He said that the British Government was seeking to put the Falkland Islands in the hands of the Prime Minister, Mr. Margaret Thatcher, during the visit to the Falkland Islands.

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fully informed, when he has been able, about precisely what they are. We have full details, Mr. Foot has heard what I indicated a moment ago. We regard this as a stage in the negotiating process which must now be continued.

We are examining the proposals very closely and shall seek to put forward our own proposals, I hope to Mr. Haig.

With that in mind, the Foreign Secretary plans to go to Washington on Thursday.

Mr. Foot: When will this report to the House again on the matter? I hope that in these discussions she will be taking into full account the proposals by Mr. Denis Healey about involvement of the United Nations in this matter.

Apart from the inherent justice of our case, a major source of strength has been the fact that this country has been acting in conformity with the United Nations and in pursuance of Resolution 2062.

If she and the Government were to follow up Mr. Healey's proposals, they would be alternatives to the specific proposals from the Argentine and make sure that we continue to act in full conformity with the charter and British obligations under the charter.

Mrs. Thatcher: I do not think that we should be in a position to the House before the Foreign Secretary has seen Mr. Haig in Washington.

Among the many problems which the Argentine proposals present is that they fail to provide that the Falkland Islands shall be able to determine their own destiny, and the House has always said that the wishes of the islanders are paramount.

On Mr. Healey's proposals, about United Nations administrators, we are in the process of one negotiation through Mr. Haig and it would be better not to get into a position where we go steadily forward with that.

I accept that we are trying to secure the implementation of Resolution 2062 which is clear but of course we also have rights under Article 51 of the charter on self-defence.

Mr. Foot: I certainly wish Mr. Foot to visit to the Falkland Islands. I am not at all certain that it is not necessary for further reports to be made to the House on this matter.

These matters are fully discussed in other places. Therefore there ought to be constant and persistent reports to the House of Commons.

Mrs. Thatcher: It is not one's intention to hold back any information in any way. But Mr. Foot and other MPs have been understanding that while negotiations are on it is difficult to give full details to the House.

I have indicated one important respect in which the Argentine proposals differ from the objectives of the United Nations, I think, almost every single person in this House.

I am here every Tuesday and want his programme for dealing with falling rolls to involve the closing of schools, and the Government recognises the community and educational importance of village schools.

Sir Keith Joseph: Yes, emphatically. My colleagues and I take the most intense care to take all social, as well as educational and financial aspects into account when making decisions. But the pace of the fall in the school population, particularly in the primary phase, has accelerated sharply in recent years.

Mr. Patrick Cormack (South-West Staffordshire, C): Will he pay particular attention to the proposals affecting truly rural village schools? In view of the vast number of village schools that have been closed in Staffordshire, will he pay particular care to proposals in that county?

Sir Keith Joseph: Yes, certainly. It is part of his question. Certainly in Staffordshire, but no more than any action in any other county. My colleagues and I take the most intense care to take all social, as well as educational and financial aspects into account when making decisions.

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Thursday and will make a much fuller statement as often as we possibly can.

Mr. Norman St. John-Stevens (Chelmsford, C): Her handling of the Falklands crisis with a combination of firmness and diplomacy has commanded the support of the vast majority of MPs.

Her declaration this afternoon, despite the difficulties or any shortcomings in the present proposals, is a resolute pursuit of a diplomatic solution to the crisis which will have the full support of most MPs.

Mrs. Thatcher: I am grateful. We do remain committed to seeking a diplomatic solution, if one can possibly be found that is acceptable.

Mr. David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L): She knows that there is all-party support for her determination to secure the removal of the Argentines from the islands and to secure the implementation of the Security Council resolution and to re-establish conditions in which the future of the islands can be determined in the long term.

But would she refrain from making the Government's position more difficult by her phrase about the paramountcy of the wishes of the islanders? (Interruptions) The islanders' wishes and the long-term issue is one for this House to resolve.

Mrs. Thatcher: The House of Commons, in exercising its duty, has always said that the wishes of the islanders are paramount.

Many, many previous negotiations have been on the basis that the Argentine wanted what it called "decisions", which has a particular meaning under the United Nations terms, but they have not been able or willing to grant self-determination to the islanders.

Mr. Stanley Newsam (Harlow, Lab): Would it not be to her advantage to involve the United Nations more deeply, particularly in the matter of the Falkland Islands, which is a matter of course, I am always there to see MPs on these important issues.

Mr. John Troward (Bridlington, C): Despite the recent proposal, which has widespread support in the country for the stance she is taking to ensure that dictators cannot keep by aggression what they failed to keep by negotiation.

In view of the Argentine record on human rights, the suggestion of Mr. Newsam that Argentine police into the islands is not acceptable and could lead to intimidation of the islanders.

Mrs. Thatcher: He has enunciated an important principle, not only that the people of the Falkland Islands but for the people of many other territories, who may be invaded with unprovoked aggression, that we should succeed. With regard to police, there were only two police on the islands, particularly relating to sex education, and that his department has a moral responsibility within the schools curriculum?

Mr. Boyson: I do not believe that the department has a moral responsibility on this. Last year, the Education Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, said that we should have libraries and in general just to be for teachers only.

When one reads in one of these books, which I can quote from, "Incest is not particularly uncommon, especially between sisters and brothers; it can be a loving sexual relationship", it is clear that we should be exercising discretion.

The same book actually talks about bestiality without any reservation whatsoever.

Mr. Malcolm Colvin (Liverpool, Lab): I would like to see an assurance that parents will have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons if they see fit.

Mr. Boyson: Consideration was given when the 1980 Bill was going through, as to whether parents have, as in religious education, the right to withdraw their children from such lessons if they see fit.

Mr. Rhodes Boyson, Under Secretary for Education and Science, said:

Mr. Neil Kinnock, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said that substantial numbers of education authorities had communicated the fact that they were prepared to find ways of affording more than the 4 per cent already offered. The threatened uproar over the issue could have been avoided if they had been left to their own devices.

In the event of the arbitrator making a recommendation (as the Bill would), the Government would be bound to pay what the arbitrator recommended.

Mr. Boyson: The money to be paid to local authorities for extra-curricular activities should be set. No money will be provided and any offer must be within that.

Mr. Blackburn (Dudley West, C) had asked if the Government would introduce legislation to give parents the right to opt text-books used in schools for the teaching of sensitive matters, such as sex education.

Mr. Boyson: The Education (School Information) Regulations, which come into effect this year, will require schools to give parents information about the way in which sex education is provided, and we have no plans for further legislation.

We have made it clear there should be the closest consultation and cooperation between parents and schools on this matter.



Stevens: Majority support



Jenkins: Unrushed decisions

with both parties to the negotiations. It is in our interests that we should have that credibility but we all know that the United States, and ourselves, are democracies.

Mr. Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): Will she, in view of the strong all-party support which the Government has rightly received during the past 2½ weeks, bear in mind that she will be expected to take future decisions in an equally non-party way, and this demands more than merely asking the Prime Minister's permission?

Mr. Cecil Parkinson (Leicester, C): I would like to see the proposal made by Mr. James Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)?

Mrs. Thatcher: I must confess, I had expected a more fundamental change in the way the Government would be run. The Leader of the Opposition, on the last occasion this came up, said: "I happen to believe rightly or wrongly that the Government should be run by a committee."

If Mr. Jenkins wishes to see me — or I am sure the same would happen with Mr. Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary — I am always there to see MPs on these important issues.

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We have made it clear there should be the closest consultation and cooperation between parents and schools on this matter.

Mr. Blackburn: There is a vital moral issue in the presentation of literature within schools. Would he give an assurance that he will exercise vigilance in this matter,



Jenkins: Unrushed decisions

islands; it was a law-abiding place.

Mr. Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport, said in written reply: In present circumstances I would urge British sporting bodies not to complete any bilateral fixtures against their Argentine counterparts scheduled in the United Kingdom, and to refrain from issuing further invitations.

In a further reply, he said the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was advising all United Kingdom nationals against visiting Argentina at this time.

During question time exchanges in the Lords, Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) asked if the Government would further study whether it would make sense to retain the Gibraltar Dockyard indefinitely. He said the dockyard was providing great service in the Falklands crisis.

He added: Whatever else results from the crisis there will plainly have to be a review of particular services which are being provided by the Royal Navy. Lord Belstead, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said the dockyard was providing valuable service in the crisis facing this country. It has already been agreed that if the Gibraltar Dockyard was to be retained, the Government would accept the viability of a commercial dockyard operation after the dockyard was subject to parliamentary approval.

Subject to negotiations with the operators, the continued naval work would be made available free of charge.

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Silkin condemns Employment Bill and promises to repeal it

TRADE UNIONS

By the time the Employment Bill had completed its passage through the Commons more than 135 hours would have been spent debating it, Mr. John Silkin, Lord President of the Council, said when he moved a timetable motion on the Bill.

The motion provided that the standing committee stage of the Bill should be completed on or before April 22 and that the report stage and third reading be completed in two days, ending at 7 pm on the second day.

He said the Bill provided an appropriate legal framework to maintain a balance between trade union immunity to legislation and obligation to it.

Although it had been described as controversial as it touched upon the closed shop, immunity of trade union funds and the determination of trades disputes, he still believed it to be a modest measure in size and purpose.

The violence of the reaction to it said nothing about whether it was a good or bad law, but was an indication of the mental attitude of those who had for decades enjoyed certain privileges and saw them threatened.

There was a degree of other-worldliness about the timetable motion debates and he anticipated that by the end of this one the House would be knee deep in the details of the Bill.

Government was confronted with the difficulties of securing legislation there came a time when a balance had to be struck between the reasonable consideration of outstanding and important aspects of the Bill.

There were important issues which the Government had to deal with. The union labour only requirement in contracts which was an oblique form of the closed shop, the bringing of industrial disputes into line with the immunities for trade union officials, and the definition of a trade dispute and its consequent immunity from legal action.

The Bill and these considerations could not be lost in a quagmire of verbosity. The purpose of the motion was to ensure that the passage of the Bill was expedited so that the remaining important clauses could be properly debated.

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale, Lab) said that the Government's consideration had been given to the proposal that timetable motions should be introduced at the start of a Bill's proceedings.

He said: "An article in The Times — the house organ of the Social Democratic Party — by Mr. John Grant (Tillingham, Central, SDP) makes the same point as I am making."

We should always be attentive upon our procedures and ways they can be improved, but what Mr. Smith is suggesting is not a radical change, but a more immediate commitment to the House.

The timetable provided for measures debate on important issues, and would secure the passage of an important piece of legislation outlined in the Queen's Speech.

The third reading could come later, under their own arrangements and they would secure the finalising spectacle of how the SDP would vote on the occasion.

It was important that the House should demonstrate there were no rare birds protected by special game laws. The Government had to show that it was a parliamentary device and in this instance it would be in terms of a vindication of democratic parliamentary procedures against the kind of corporate interests (Conservative cheers).

Mr. Geoffrey Bickens (Huddersfield, West, C) said he did not criticise the committee for its decision to proceed with the Bill, but he was concerned about the questions about waste and inefficient use of money.

Too often, it seemed, the question of waste and inefficiency was used as a pre-emptive strike to get the real answers to it. It was necessary to ask not permanent secretaries but to lower down the line.

Mr. Tim Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab) said there was an obligation to monitor the costs of the Falklands Islands task force. One thing was clear: that if an amount was not made to meet the "top" expenses by the Ministry of Defence next year or the year after would be ascribed to the Falklands Islands operation.

Some MPs were concerned at the "talk" of using Vulcan bombers. One of the questions was: were the bombs dropped on South American mainland then the far would be in the fire.

Mr. Robert Sheldon, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said on defence spending, there had to be a re-examination of cash limits. Although no one could argue with expenditure of the task force, it was essential to the economic success of the nation.

Lord Bruce of Donnington, for the Opposition, said this was a "silly" and "completely irrelevant" Bill. The country's serious economic problems, the Conservative Party, which had no mandate for the Bill, had a pathological hatred of any serious economic reform.

Labour would repeal the Act to restore the position on national ownership of national resources.

On compensation (he said) we shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that those who have profited from the series of sordid transactions do not get away with the swag.

Labour would initiate an investigation into the manner in which such deals had been carried out.

Mr. John Silkin, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs (Leeds, West, Lab), said that progress on the Bill had been fast. The slower progress made on the Bill within the parliamentary rules the better because it was the worst Bill to come before the House since the Industrial Relations Act, 1971, which it surpassed both in evil and in sheer division and contention.

The Secretary of State for Employment, Mr. Norman Tebbit, who was the architect, had clearly in mind what he wanted — to go back to the Taff Vale decision. The Opposition would resist the motion and the Bill. When the time came it would go into the dustbin of history as the 1971 Act had in its turn.

This was the worst of the most divisive Bills one could possibly have. At a time when the Government was talking about national unity, to bring in a Bill like this, to carry on with it, was to say that it went through against the wishes of the Opposition and at least half the population, possibly more, was to say that it was a betrayal of the trust which the people had placed in the Government.

Mr. Tebbit: Mr. Silkin overstated it when he said

employment
repeal it

he would have been moving to
it would vote for it on more, he
it was not his job to answer to
Bill procedurally through the
House.

What the Government was
setting it through, he would
for the Bill, but he would be
prepared to vote for the Bill
time, which was merely a
procedural mechanism to get
through. He would vote against
the motion before the House.

Mr Tom Bradley (Leicester, Con-
servative) said the Bill would
improve industrial relations
might well harm them. The Bill
in the belief that trade unions
should not regard themselves
being above and beyond the law.
They should try to achieve a
balance between a trade union's
obligations and a trade union's
and the question of its immu-
nity from legal action.

The timetable motion was
prevent discussion in
which MPs had hoped to
and the Bill would
well with the official
and to the motion.

Mr Ian Gifford (Tower Hamlets,
Conservative) said that Mr Toxtott, one of
Prime Minister's
fully boys, was looking
with a covering appeal
which was not expected to
addressed the Conservative
conference on the bill.

His bet was that the House
of Lords had already
stop-watch so that the
length of the Bill
was not too long. He
wasn't sure if he was
standing ovation at the
time, but he was sure
that the Bill was a
good one.

Mr Eric Varley, Chief Opposition
Spokesman, said the Bill
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Triumph Acclaim (£4,829)	48.8
Austin Mini City (£2,999)	48.5
Morris Ital 1.3L (£4,367)	45.0
Rover 2000 (£7,450)	42.6
Austin Ambassador 1.7L (£5,106)	42.0

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FALKLAND CRISIS

Pym steers clear of force at Brussels

By Murray, Brussels, April 20

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Pym, has been clear in his statement that the United Kingdom is seeking to bring the maximum pressure to bear on the Argentine junta and that it was prepared to do everything to achieve a peaceful solution if this were possible.

If he did not seek support for any eventual British military action, he left his fellow ministers in no doubt about the British resolve not to flinch from doing so, if it believed this was the only way of ensuring that the interests of the islanders were protected.

The British Cabinet decision had not been taken when the Foreign Secretary said, but Mr Pym was able to warn that there might well be very rough waters ahead before the dispute was settled. He was therefore asking for the complete solidarity of the Community.

The short statement at the end of the meeting gave the solidarity and went on to confirm the EEC's desire to see United Nations Security Council Resolution 502, demanding the withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Falklands — put into operation.

The statement ended by saying the ministers were anxious for the affair to have a peaceful solution. It praised the efforts of Mr Haig to find such a solution and supported his work.

The heavy emphasis in the short statement on the peaceful solution is a pointer to the fact that Britain's partners are less than happy about any suggestion that Britain should go to war. Britain is not prepared to give any undertaking to anyone that it will not go to war into action.

A British source said before the meeting that it would negate the point of sending the task force if there were any doubts about it being used if necessary. He said Britain was not asking its partners for a blank cheque, but Mr Pym did want to make it clear how determined the Government was.

It was Mr Pym's first meeting with his fellow EEC Foreign Ministers and he sought it in order to give his thanks for the swift way in which the trade embargo had been applied. He also wanted to show the British was anxious to consult its partners about the actions it was taking.

His mission was seen as sufficiently important for the British Cabinet meeting, which was to discuss the American proposals, to be postponed until he returned from Brussels.

Mr Pym emphasized in his long explanation of the



H2 in the lead as landing craft from HMS Hermes exercise in the Atlantic

Navy may well rue sale of lethal Darts

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Britain could soon regret its decision to sell the Sea Dart guided missile to Argentina if fighting breaks out between the two navies, still separated by about 2,000 miles in the South Atlantic.

Not only is Sea Dart an effective long-range, anti-aircraft weapon designed to pick off hostile intruders of one's air space at sea; but it is also capable of crippling enemy ships.

Many experts at the Ministry of Defence believe that Sea Dart and the Type-42 destroyers which are designed to carry it, should never have been supplied to the Argentines — who remain the only other navy to have them.

Even then, safety would be very much "relative". About three modern Argentine frigates and four elderly American destroyers, are fitted with the French Exocet missile — a dedicated sea-skimming anti-ship missile which is also in service with the Royal Navy. Exocet is not half as fast as Sea Dart, but still packs quite a punch.

Moreover, because it is a low-flying weapon it would strike a vessel around the waterline. Sea Dart might make a warship *hors de combat*; but Exocet — if it escapes the Sea Wolf anti-missile missiles on the task force's Type 22 frigates could actually sink it.

The Royal Navy's task force has the firepower, the expertise and the morale to defeat the small Argentine Navy in a sea battle should the crisis end in one.

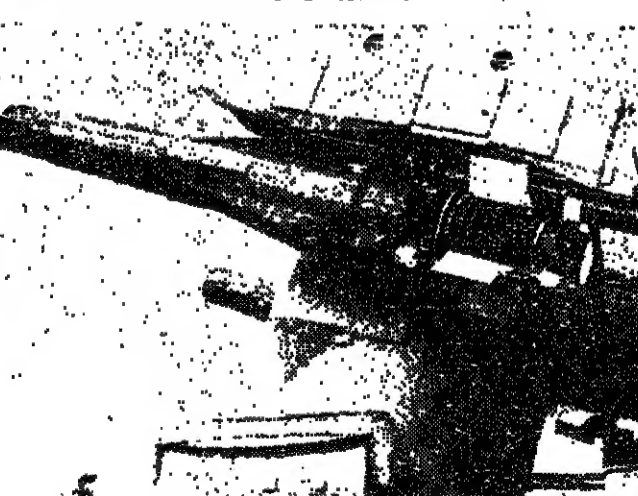
However, it could well lose a ship on doing so. If that ship were a carrier like the *Invincible* or the *Hermes*, the loss of life and expensive investment (more than £200m in the *Invincible* and its aircraft and weapons) would be considerable.

Even a crippling blow would be a humiliating reverse for the fleet at a time when it needs to prove its value to a Government which is not without its doubters.

Britain will not rule the waves in the South Atlantic as easily as many armchair strategists assume.

Gaston Thorn Hurt

Brussels. — Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, was slightly injured when his car was in collision with a bus in Brussels. He received only bruises.



Sea Dart: Capable of crippling ships too.

IN SUMMARY

Falangists march for Gibraltar

About 20,000 people marched in a right-wing demonstration through Madrid to show support for the Argentine takeover of the Falkland Islands and demand the return of Gibraltar to Spain (our Madrid correspondent writes).

The word "recession" has become a part of daily conversation and it is calculated that it will last nine to 12 months here. Some 61 Chilean industrial enterprises went bankrupt last month, and this figure brings the total of bankruptcies for the first quarter of 1982 to 124. In 1981, 431 business went bankrupt.

The invasion of the Falkland Islands has made Chileans forget for a few days that the country is going through a very difficult financial situation. But they have suddenly become aware of the harsh economic reality. Chilean bankers who approach the financial markets in search of loans are confronted with unexpected difficulties. Doors that were open before are now closed. Some financiers have been refused loans, while others are granted much smaller sums than they were requesting.

While last year an average of \$243m (£137m) flowed into the country every month, only \$114m has been obtained by Chile in the first two months of this year.

There also an evident lack

Socialists want UN peace force

Socialist members of the European Parliament are calling for a United Nations peacekeeping force to be set up in the Falklands.

A resolution tabled by Mrs Barbara Castle, the Labour leader in Strasbourg, also calls for a halt to the progress of the British naval task force and the simultaneous withdrawal of the Argentine invasion force.

But the move, one of a series of resolutions being hastily prepared for an emergency debate on the crisis today, has already upset Conservative representatives.

Mr Adam Ferguson, MEP for Strathclyde West, the Conservative spokesman, said that his colleagues would not back any resolution which could be interpreted as calling on Britain to retreat.

Defence lesson for Britain

The Falklands crisis has made a review of the Government's defence priorities necessary, Dr David Owen, the SDP's parliamentary leader, said last night (Henry Stanhope writes).

Speaking in Chichester after visiting Portsmouth Dockyard, he acknowledged that Britain would not have to shape the Royal Navy around the need to maintain a garrison on the disputed islands.

The real lesson, however, was that Britain's main contribution to Nato should be to the alliance's maritime strategy. The Government's folly had been in giving a higher priority to land forces.

The crisis had demonstrated the power and flexibility of nuclear-powered submarines.

At Buenos Aires: Mr Tony Prime, one of three British journalists held by the Argentine authorities, believed to have been questioned by a Federal Court judge on Monday over allegations that he had been spying (Christopher Thomas writes).

The Prime photographer with *The Observer* is said to have been questioned for three hours in Ushuaia in the south of the country. Mr Simon Winchester of *The Sunday Times* and Mr Ian Mather of *The Observer* were expected to be questioned yesterday or today.

Paras delayed

The embarkation at Hull of the 900 men of the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment on board the requisitioned MV *Norland* (12,500 tonnes) has been put back 24 hours until tomorrow. No explanation was made for the delay.

OVERSEAS NEWS

'Chicago boys' blamed

Chile's economy in grip of recession

As the political and economic problems facing Chile intensified, the entire Cabinet of President Augusto Pinochet resigned on Monday. An official communiqué said that the President did not intend to change his economic policies or to devalue the peso. Florencia Varas reports from Santiago on economic difficulties.

The great hopes for economic recovery endangered by the military regime headed by President Pinochet and his economic team of "Chicago boys", who brought professor Milton Friedman's theories to Chile, have begun to crumble. There are serious doubts about the Friedman economic model and about the country's future.

"The present problems are so serious that it is difficult to look anywhere but at the situation of the moment. It is disconcerting to feel that businessmen cannot see a clear future and only think of how to get by the next day," said Alfonso Silva, president of the Social Union of Christian Businessmen, said.

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Convicted minister to quit Cabinet

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, April 20

Mr Aharon Abuhatzira, the Israeli Minister of Labour Welfare and Social Security, who was convicted yesterday of bribery, announced today that he intends to resign from the Cabinet but to keep his seat in the Knesset. His decision requires the approval of the Knesset's 120-member Central Committee and is by no means certain.

A party official said sessions of the party institutions will be scheduled after sentence is pronounced. The district court will hear arguments about the penalty tomorrow. He is liable to seven years' imprisonment for theft and three-year sentences for fraud and breach of trust.

He said he wished another Knesset representative to take over his seat at the Cabinet table and indicated he will reclaim it if he wins his appeal to the Supreme Court. He said he was not giving up his Knesset seat because that would be irreversible.

Mr Abuhatzira called on

Stoessel claims progress

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, April 20

Mr Walter Stoessel, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, said today progress had been made in his efforts to save the peace pact between Egypt and Israel.

He ended seven hours of negotiations in Egypt by meeting President Hosni Mubarak and his aides. "We have had very friendly, very cordial and very constructive talks," Mr Stoessel said. "I believe we have made progress and that things are moving well. . . . I am optimistic about the outcome."

Mr Stoessel came to the area almost a week ago at the instruction of President Reagan, as both countries showed signs of increased strain over the withdrawal from the Sinai. He has been shuttling between Cairo and Jerusalem and flew back to Israel today, saying he could not tell if a return trip to Egypt would be needed.

Among the areas of dispute are sovereignty over a 600 to 1,000 square yard area south of the Israeli port of Eilat, and whether the Egyptians will reaffirm in writing their commitment to the peace pact in order to allow Israeli troops to return to the Sinai.

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Successes claimed for abortion pill

By Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 20

The discovery of an after-conception pill by a group of French scientists has opened the way to a new method of abortion, less traumatizing and damaging to health than existing ones.

Professor Etienne-Emile Baulieu, the director of a research unit at the Institute for Medical Research, the French Academy of Science, said that the experiments were carried out in Switzerland. The new substance, an anti-progesterone steroid, RU486, the formula of which remains secret, had proved very effective.

The drug was tested on 11 women volunteers who were between six and eight weeks pregnant. Nine abortions had been provoked with the absorption of a dose of 200 milligrams of the drug a day over four days in the form of two to four capsules.

The RU 486 has also proved a very effective means of contraception. Professor Baulieu explained that the new substance, a hormone compound, worked on a very simple principle. It prevented one of the two female hormones, the progesterone, from playing its essential part in the implantation of the embryo in the uterus.

A great number of contraceptive tests of its contraceptive effect were carried out first on animals and afterwards on women. "What we do is combat the progesterone through the cells upon which it works," he explained. By administering the substance to non-pregnant women, normal menstruation was produced within 48 hours.

The following menstrual cycle was found to be thoroughly normal. A large number of further clinical tests will be necessary on the new substance, to establish the reasons for its failure to act in some cases any after-effects, and those cases in which it could not be prescribed. If these prove conclusive, the drug could be on the market in three years and would revolutionize existing methods of contraception and abortion.

The World Health Organization and the Ford Foundation have expressed keen interest in the discovery, and asked to participate in these clinical tests.

Clergy split threatens Iran regime

By Hazhir Teimourian

The denunciation of Ayatollah Khomeini, aged 83, one of Iran's most respected religious leaders, as a participant in an alleged plot against the life of Ayatollah Khomeini, the revolutionary leader, is likely to create a gulf among the ruling elite of Shia clergy which could combine with other factors to bring about the downfall of the regime.

Normally it would have been expected that Ayatollah Khomeini would conceal any intrigues against him by his rivals in the interests of presenting a united front on behalf of the clergy.

But, in fact, he is now being made the election of an assembly of experts who will choose a council of grand ayatollahs to succeed him. He may therefore have been tempted to isolate the opponents of his particular brand of political Islam to prevent them from being elected to the future council.

The denunciation of Ayatollah Khomeini was made by Mr Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, the former Foreign Minister who was arrested two weeks ago in connection with the alleged plot when he appeared on television claiming that the ayatollah had been aware of the plot and had promised to support it.

Subsequently a statement by a group of pro-Khomeini religious leaders in the holy city of Qom was broadcast over the state radio and television, condemning the Ayatollah Khomeini as a "Supreme Source of Following" for the faithful.

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MPs' snaps may yield landing site

By Anthony Bevins

Military intelligence yesterday called an MP to the Ministry of Defence so that they could examine photographs and other material gathered during a parliamentary visit to the Falkland Islands last September.

Mr Eric Ogden, Social Democratic MP for Liverpool, West Derby, and Mr Michael Sherby, Conservative MP for Uxbridge, visited the islands under the sponsorship of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Mr Ogden said yesterday that he had gone on the trip at the request of a Foreign Office minister of state, "to reassure the islanders of Britain's continuing interest and support, and to ascertain their views on future talks with Argentina".

He had received a call from the Ministry of Defence last week, expressing an interest in any photographs he might have taken of the islands.

Mr Ogden said: "We were taken on a coast-hopping trip in a Beaver seaplane and took many photographs of the bays, beaches, headlands and settlements from the air. It seems that penguins and invaders like the same kind of beaches."

He added that it was quite fascinating, in the light of the current crisis and with the task force heading south, to look at the photographs of possible invasion sites on the islands.

Mr Ogden has been told by the ministry that his "items" would be carefully examined and officials would let him know "if any of them could be of use to the intelligence people".

The Liverpool MP also stated that the Falkland Islands Office in London had also been asked for contacts who might have maps and photographs which could be of intelligence interest for invading forces.

Shadow fleet

The Royal Navy has now requisitioned or chartered 35 civilian ships "to support and augment" the Falkland Islands task force. The official list, issued by the Defence Ministry, shows they include 19 tankers, cruise ships, cargo vessels, trawlers and tugs.

REQUISITIONED
P & O liner Canberra (44,807 tons), troop carrier and hospital ship; P & O roll-on, roll-off cargo ship, *Esso* (15,642), transporting armoured vehicles; P & O schools cruise ship *Uganda* (16,907) hospital ship. All are at sea.

Tugs: Salvageman (1,598), Irishman (686), Yorkshireman (686). All belong to United Towing and all are at sea.

Trawlers, fitted as mine-sweepers with Royal Navy crews: Northalla (1,238), Farnella (1,207), Junella (1,615), Cordella (1,238). All belong to J. Marr Ltd of Hull, and are at sea, with the exception of Farnella which is at Hull. Pict (1,478), a trawler which will act as support ship, belonging to British United Trawlers, is also at sea.

Cargo vessels for transport of equipment: *Siena Seaspeed*, North Sea support ship belonging to *Siena UK*, (6,061) at sea; P & O roll-on, roll-off ferry *Norland* (12,988) now loading at Hull; *Townsend Thoresen's* Europe ferry (4,180) loading at Southampton; *Finnor* Norwegian freighter (21,267) at sea; *Cunard's Atlantic Conveyor*, roll-on roll-off ship (14,945) is at Devonport.

CHARTERED
Tankers: *Esk* (15,642), *Tamar* (15,642), *Tay* (15,650), *Test* (16,653). (All owned by BP and at sea). The BP *Test*, of similar tonnage, is in Loch Strin, and BP *Dart* is at Portland being fitted out. *Esso Fawley* (11,064), BP *Wye* (15,649), BP *Avon* (15,540), G.A. Walker, owned by Canadian Pacific (18,744). All are at sea. *Shell Burma* (19,763), BP *IV* (13,271), BP *IV* (13,252), *Swedish-owned Cortina* (8,499), *Luminetta*, owned by Cunard (14,925), *Ironman* — no details of ownership supplied — (3,623), *Fort Toronto*, owned by Canadian Pacific (19,982) freshwater tanker.

UN's peace blueprints ready

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York, April 19

There is an abundance of ideas being floated in London, Buenos Aires and Washington concerning a United Nations role in a Falklands settlement.

High-level United Nations officials, inspired by thoughts that the possibilities are endless, have drawn up no fewer than 15 blueprints in case the organization should be called upon to save the day. They claim that none of the parties has requested the effort, although within some political circles the United Nations is being promoted as a means for giving two politically threatened governments a graceful way out.

The ideas being most widely circulated are: Peace-keeping forces — Given the United Nations' expertise in this area and its current stationing of its forces in Lebanon, the Golan Heights and Cyprus, this is the idea that first came to mind soon after the Argentine invasion.

Direct administration — The only precedent here is probably a rather disquieting one for Britain. It involves the disputed territory of New Guinea, now known as West Irian. In 1962 the Dutch Government was persuaded to hand over administration to the United Nations. The next year the Indonesian authorities assumed control and in 1963, without a referendum, declared that the inhabitants wished to remain under Jakarta's control.

Trusteeship — This would leave Britain as the administering power over the islands in trust with the United Nations, which in turn would make certain the needs of the islanders were well served. Of all the United Nations possibilities this is considered the most advantageous to the British Government since the system would give priority to the wishes of the islanders. Supervision (United Nations) under a multinational

administration — This would give a joint British-Argentine administration an international gloss and some amount of face saving, pending resolution of the issue of sovereignty.

Sovereignty negotiated under United Nations auspices — The possibility being given most prominence, as a result of Mr Haig's most recent talks in Buenos Aires, appears at first glance to provide Argentina with an edge because of the General Assembly's pronouncements.

Mediation — Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General, would have the opportunity to shed the low profile he has kept throughout Mr Haig's mission, but it would probably mean that effort had failed. Britain has been eager to keep Señor Pérez de Cuellar from becoming directly involved in negotiations, believing that the United States has far more leverage with Argentina.

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RAF PUTS BIRDS IN A FLAP

The peace and quiet of Cape Wrath will be shattered this week when the recently converted RAF Vulcan bombers begin target practice on the tiny island of Garve, less than half a mile from one of the biggest seabird colonies in Britain (Our Scottish Correspondent writes).

The bombers are using live 1,000lb bombs and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is worried about disturbances to nesting puffins, gulls, fulmars and kittiwakes. An RAF spokesman said yesterday that the Ministry of Defence usually tried to avoid bombing on the Cape Wrath range during the nesting season. The society would like to see a moratorium on exercises with live ammunition between mid-April and early July.

The Ministry of Defence yesterday described the exercises as "critical" in view of the Falklands crisis.

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Successes claimed for abortion pill

By Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 20

The discovery of an effective abortion pill by a group of French scientists has been hailed as a major medical breakthrough. The pill, known as RU-486, is said to be safe, effective and easy to use. It is the first of its kind to be developed in France. The scientists who developed the pill are from the French Academy of Medicine. They have been working on the pill for several years. The pill is now being tested in clinical trials. If the results are successful, the pill could be available to women in France and other countries. The pill is said to be a major advance in the field of reproductive health. It is a significant step towards giving women more control over their own bodies. The pill is also seen as a potential solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancies. It is a drug that can be taken orally and does not require surgery. This makes it a much safer and more convenient option for women. The pill is also said to be effective in a wide range of cases. It can be used to abort a pregnancy at any stage up to nine weeks. This makes it a versatile and useful tool for women. The pill is also said to be safe for the mother and the fetus. It does not cause any serious side effects. This makes it a very attractive option for women. The pill is also said to be affordable. It is a drug that can be made available to all women who need it. This is a major advantage over other options. The pill is also said to be easy to use. It can be taken at home and does not require a doctor's supervision. This makes it a very convenient option for women. The pill is also said to be effective in a wide range of cases. It can be used to abort a pregnancy at any stage up to nine weeks. This makes it a versatile and useful tool for women. The pill is also said to be safe for the mother and the fetus. It does not cause any serious side effects. This makes it a very attractive option for women. The pill is also said to be affordable. It is a drug that can be made available to all women who need it. This is a major advantage over other options. The pill is also said to be easy to use. It can be taken at home and does not require a doctor's supervision. This makes it a very convenient option for women.

Balancing act by Polish bishops on visit by Pope

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, April 20

Will the Pope visit Poland as planned this August? That is the question dominating church strategists in Warsaw and will be one of the principal topics of talks between the Polish bishops and the Pope scheduled to take place in the Vatican next month. The Church is having to balance two elements on the one hand, the Pope's visit would give great encouragement to the Polish people and strengthen the church's position in its negotiations with the Polish Government. His visit to Poland two years ago helped to shake the spirit of opposition in the country and was a contributing factor to the birth of Solidarity, the free trade union. On the other hand, a papal visit would be seen by the Government as an endorsement of the Church's position on legitimizing martial law. A decision on the visit has been delayed for as long as possible — the religious point of the trip is the 600th anniversary of the miracle of the Madonna of Czestochowa — but Church-state relations have now reached a crucial phase. Church sources believe further postponement of an announcement may thus create more problems than it solves. The Church has presented an important strategy document, now circulating among the country's bishops, that goes some way towards creating a bridge with the Government. It recognizes that the Solidarity movement is a reality and that some form of social contract involving both the Government and trade unions is a desirable goal. Although it lays the responsibility on the Government to create a suitable atmosphere for talks, by releasing internal security, for example, it accepts that there are certain constraints on the martial law authorities. Reformist Communist politicians said privately last week that the document was a useful negotiating base. The Pope will now be expected to give his approval to it. Both Government and Church are expected to discuss it during a joint bishops-Government meeting in early May. The outcome of these talks will prove to be the key element in the decision about whether to allow the Pope's visit to go ahead. If the Vatican can be assured that the Government is prepared to reach a socially acceptable compromise in a new trade union structure, then the risk of the Pope "legitimizing" a repressive regime will be less acute. First signs that the Government is ready to go some way along this route came in an article in the daily *Zycie Warszawy* this week written by a former Solidarity activist, recently released from internment, criticizing the Government's union reform proposals. "But we must not expect miracles," said a Church adviser today. "The papal visit can still be delayed either until October or next March." He emphasizes that, if the visit is to go ahead in August, the decision will have to be made in the next two or three weeks for adequate preparations to be made. Meanwhile, the main concern of the Communist Party is to establish itself in an article in the daily *Zycie Warszawy* this week written by a former Solidarity activist, recently released from internment, criticizing the Government's union reform proposals. "But we must not expect miracles," said a Church adviser today. "The papal visit can still be delayed either until October or next March." He emphasizes that, if the visit is to go ahead in August, the decision will have to be made in the next two or three weeks for adequate preparations to be made.



'Smile...'

Schmidt tries to reunite his party

From Patricia Clough
Munich, April 20

With an uncharacteristic touch of humility Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today urged his critics and divided Social Democrats to stand by Nato's missile policy and pleaded for party unity. In a two-hour speech, he warned the party congress here that it had the choice between pulling itself together or being relegated to opposition where it could no longer influence the future of the country. The crucial issue before the congress, he said, "is not, in this very rough weather, to hand over the ship of state to a different command". Herr Schmidt, whose policies are being increasingly criticized by younger and more left-wing members, had evidently realized the congress was in no mood for his usual confident, occasionally arrogant, manner. Speaking in quiet persuasive tones, he admitted: "I know I have made mistakes and I will not be able to avoid making others in future."

Why Italian terror will not go away

From Peter Nichols Rome, April 20

As some of the most chilling figures in Italian terrorism lie back tomorrow in their graves, with the resumption here of the trial of Aldo Moro's alleged killers, the inevitable question hanging over the improvised courtroom is: What next? At the opening of the trial last week, even the most hardened killers among the 40 accused present (out of 63) agreed to a degree of collaboration with the court. This behaviour in itself was unusual: it is more normal for terrorists of the far left to refuse both the authority of the court and defending counsel. Their conduct throughout the day's proceedings was much calmer than at most of the trials involving leaders of the Red Brigades. The behaviour was imposed by Mario Moretti, still the undisputed leader of the militant wing of the Brigades. He was reputedly the interrogator of the former Prime Minister during the 55 days of Moro's captivity, as well as having been responsible for the decision to kill him. Moro was kidnapped on March 16 four years ago. The 63 accused are charged with his kidnapping and murder and 16 other murders, including the five men of his bodyguard. Moretti appeared anxious to speak during the trial because, as he told the court, he wanted to give their side of the "activities of the 'med party' in Italy."

Mauroy defends his style of governing

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 20

M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, has felt it necessary to justify, in a lengthy article in *Le Monde*, his method of running the Government, which has been under increasing attack from many sides, and not only by his political opponents. It is in accordance, he says, "with the democratic options of the left". President Mitterrand might use tomorrow's Cabinet meeting to give his views on the matter. The controversy between M. Robert Badinter, the Minister of Justice, and M. Baston Defferre, the Minister of the Interior, over the extent of police powers has once again brought into question the cohesion of the Socialist administration, the coherence of its policy, and the ability of the Prime Minister to impose both upon it.

Letter from Peking China luxuriates in its pre-Mao past

People have different ways of unwinding from the strains of modern living: meditation, television, or just a long walk in the country. In Peking nowadays one can resort to such refined enjoyments as sitting in contemplation of a 46-ton bronze bell inscribed inside and out with Buddhist sutras and said to be audible 20 miles away when struck, or browsing through a selection of millions of imperial archives in one of the world's first fire-proofed buildings. Life in the Chinese capital is being gradually enriched by the restoration and opening of dozens of buildings and historic sites closed to the public in the early stages of the Cultural Revolution more than 15 years ago. Money is becoming available for this work in impressive amounts. The old skills and handicrafts are mostly remembered, and are being handed down by the old practitioners to apprentices. Whether it be the restoration of a delicate scroll by actually burning rice-wine on its surface, or digging up the remains of an eighteenth-century palace in the style of the Italian baroque, there is ample enthusiasm and loving care to be tapped. This is of considerable social and psychological importance for the Chinese people of today. Moa Tse-tung wanted the common people to be "poor and blank" so that he could write his revolutionary patterns on their minds. But this was a tremendous under-assessment of his fellow-countrymen. Revolutionary or capitalist, most Chinese people value their cultural heritage enormously, be it only in the form of rustic marriage customs, clan lineages, or reciting ballads. No other people in the world are so closely linked to so much of their past, and it is reassuring that this link has survived the political upheavals of the past century. The effort to protect and restore relics of resource-allocation. In the case of many known sites — such as most of the Ming and Qing tombs — the only feasible solution is to leave them as they are, still funds and expertise become available to open them. Many

David Bonavia

Russians launch second laboratory into orbit

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, April 20

The Russians yesterday launched a new space laboratory, Salyut 7, which will be used by a mixed Soviet-French crew this summer. The working research laboratory, sent up from the Baikonur Space Centre in Kazakhstan, replaces the ageing 19-tonne Salyut 6, which was used by other mixed crews drawn from the Soviet Union's communist allies under the Interkosmos programme.

Tass reported today that all systems were functioning normally, and Salyut 7 is now orbiting the Earth every 90 minutes, 170 miles in its space. Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Loup Chrétien, aged 43, a French Air Force pilot, will be sent up with two Soviet cosmonauts to the laboratory in June in the first East-West joint mission since the 1975 Soviet-American link-up between the Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft. Colonel Chrétien has been training for the mission at the Soviet Space Centre near Moscow, together with his underlings, Commander Patrick Baudry, for the past two years. Salyut 7, like its predecessor launched in 1977, will



Dr Sally Ride, aged 30, the astrophysicist who is to be America's first woman in space

be used for scientific experiments. Tass said it would test modernized systems and equipment or the orbiting station, as well as being used for technical research. All the systems will be checked and tested in two months by a preparatory two-man Soviet crew who will reach the space laboratory a few days before the Franco-Soviet team arrives on a Soyuz 7 spacecraft, an updated version of the module used in earlier Soviet manned expeditions.

RESHUFFLE IN CYPRUS

Nicosia, April 20 — Mr Spyros Kyprianou, the President of Cyprus, today dropped five of his 11 Cabinet ministers, reshuffled the others and announced he would seek re-election when his current five-year term of office expires. Only Mr Nicos Rolandis, the Foreign Minister, Mr Christodoulos Veniamin, the Interior Minister, and Mr Stathos Cattellis, Minister to the President, survived the reshuffle. Reuter

Afghan war lull

Delhi, April 20. — Soviet and Afghan forces regained control from Muslim rebels in the strategic district around Pagan, 12 miles north-west of Kabul, over the past week when heavy military activity resumed after a winter lull, diplomatic sources said here today. Soviet and Afghan armour were reported around the rebel stronghold of Khoja Musafer, a village near Pagan. — Reuter.

Singapore seeks greater control of press

From David Watts, Kuala Lumpur, April 20

Singapore has launched a series of manoeuvres intended to rationalize its press, which will ultimately leave no leading newspaper free of strong government influence. The republic already has stringent laws and a system of annual licences for the publication of newspapers which ensure that opposition to the Government is muted. But Mr Lee Kuan Yew's Government has been concerned for a long time at what it felt was the poor quality of the press and is moving rapidly to take greater control of the situation. This is the background to

an announcement today that the leading English-language morning daily in the island, *The Straits Times*, is to lose its evening title, the *New Nation*, to the Singapore Monitor Limited. It was also announced that the two highly competitive Chinese-language morning newspapers, *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, are to merge. The ultimate aim is to have *The Straits Times* publish one English-language daily and one Chinese-language evening paper financed principally by the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation, while the rival Ministry company publishes the *New Nation* as an evening paper and a Chinese-

language morning paper. The Monitor company's principle shareholders are the two current Chinese-language newspapers, the Government Development Bank of Singapore and two other Chinese banks. Today's announcement follows the appointment as executive chairman of *The Straits Times* board of Mr S. R. Nathan, a former head of intelligence and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Nathan's appointment was strongly resisted by the board. Relations between the board of the company and the People's Action Party (PAP) Government have

never been comfortable since the newspaper opposed Mr Lee Kuan Yew's rise to power in Singapore in the early days of independence. There was also resentment at the poor quality of *The Straits Times* which, with a monopoly of the English-language morning market, has been a very profitable newspaper for a long time; so much so that about two years ago the Government encouraged the establishment of a rival morning newspaper, to be called *The Singapore Monitor*. But now, *The Singapore Monitor* is unlikely ever to see the light of day,

Mob attacks accused

Sydney, April 20. — A mob today attacked three men outside a court where they had been remanded in custody on charges of shooting dead two youths after being evicted from a teenager's party. As they were led out, about 100 people shouting "hang them" surged forward, kicking and punching. Reuter.

Japanese concessions on croissants and cognac

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 20

A lifting of the ban on French croissants, a cut in the crushing 220 per cent duties on French brandy and a promise to buy a few helicopters — for such paltry presents was it worthwhile for President Mitterrand to become the first French head of state to pay a state visit to Japan?

This is the question most French commentators are asking themselves today, and the answers depend on their capacity to penetrate the mist of elaborate politeness and inscrutability under which the Japanese shroud their real thoughts and intentions. In terms of making the Japanese give up their aggressive industrial policy and their protectionist commercial practices, the French President obviously made no headway. Although some of the ministers and members of his entourage who went with him were obviously disconcerted by their lack of response, the President himself did not expect any spectacular or immediate results. He had not come to Japan as a commercial travel-

ler of French wares, and France was on that ground in a distinct position of weakness.

The very fact that he had decided to make this visit, to which his predecessors never got round, could easily be interpreted by his hosts as confirmation of their own strength. But he was able to exploit the immense curiosity and interest raised in public opinion by his presence. His unprecedented initiative, for instance, in proposing to answer the questions of Japanese television viewers met with an overwhelming response, and it drove home to Government and people an image of France, which broke the solidly entrenched clichés of the country of wine, perfumes, haute couture and cultures.

At Tsukuba, the scientists' town, he insisted on the solid achievements of France in the fields of research and technology, and on the possibilities of fruitful co-operation in the long term. Opinions are indications that he made some impact on that score.

Puzzle of Spain's lack of security

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, April 20

The chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force met representatives of the United Anti-terrorist Command in Madrid today to coordinate the takeover of certain police duties by the armed forces. While the Government came under political criticism in connexion with the recent increase in terrorism.

Communist MP's agreed to question the Government in Parliament about the lack of security precautions at the automatic telephone exchange which was destroyed here last Sunday by Basque extremists and about security arrangements at other communications installations. The question was prompted by press disclosure that the police were aware beforehand that the Basque separatist organization ETA was planning to attack a target in Madrid with explosives last weekend and that the telephone company did not include the exchange — the country's most important on its priority list for special security measures.

Two other parliamentary groups, the Conservative Democratic Coalition and the Catalan minority, said they would call for a debate in the Congress of Deputies, on the terrorist issue.

The meeting between top military and police officials was the second in two days, motivated by the Government's decision last Sunday to put into practice exceptional anti-terrorist measures.

The increase in political violence began last Wednesday with a bazooka attack on a police barracks in San Sebastian.

In the past six days, there have been six more attacks, resulting in three days' arrest, charged with helping Mr Vladimir Merkulov, an expelled Soviet diplomat, in subversive activities.

Cuba travel banned
Washington. — The United States Government has banned business and pleasure travel to Cuba in an effort to limit the flow of American dollars to the country. Mr John Walker, Assistant Treasury Secretary, accused Cuba of "sponsoring armed violence against our friends and allies."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

EEC seeks farm deal

Brussels. — The agricultural ministers of the 10 EEC countries resumed their weary negotiations in Luxembourg to try to agree farm price rises (Ian Murray writes).

Policeman jailed in S Africa

Johannesburg. — Inspector Petrus Bronkhorst of the South African police, who lashed a taxi driver and three women, one of whom was pregnant, last Sunday, was sentenced to 17 months' imprisonment.

Spanish coup trial adjourned for week

Madrid. — The Spanish coup trial was adjourned for a week to give the prosecution and defence time to prepare their summing-up. The two-month-old trial was originally expected to be over by the end of this month, but Señor Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, said he does not expect sentences to be passed until late next month or early in June.

Spy charges dropped

Copenhagen. — The Danish Ministry of Justice has dropped espionage charges against Mr Arne Herlov Petersen, aged 38, author and left-wing activist (Christopher Follett writes). He was arrested and remanded in custody for three days last November, charged with helping Mr Vladimir Merkulov, an expelled Soviet diplomat, in subversive activities.

Kidnap victim freed

Taranto. — Kidnappers have set free Signor Raffaele Fico, aged 34, an Italian businessman abducted five months ago after his family paid a ransom of 880m lire.

A Times Investigation/Frances Gibb on a murder which was solved all too easily

Why Paul Cleeland deserves a retrial

THE MURDER

In their determination to find the killer, the police may have entangled themselves in a web of mistakes

Shortly before two o'clock in the morning of November 5, 1972, Terry Clarke, a 30-year-old man, was shot dead at close range with a shotgun in the "cul-de-sac" behind his house. The killer ambushed him as he went to his car. A night out with his wife, fired two shots and Clarke stepped out of his car, and ran off.

The man charged with his murder was Paul Cleeland, 30, a scabber from Stevenage, who shot dead at close range with a shotgun in the "cul-de-sac" behind his house. The killer ambushed him as he went to his car. A night out with his wife, fired two shots and Clarke stepped out of his car, and ran off.

From the moment of his arrest, Cleeland has vigorously protested his innocence. He is not a man of unblemished background who inadvertently became involved through bad luck. Both he and the victim were part of the Stevenage criminal fraternity. But he is convinced, and recounts in a compelling and coherent narrative — that in their determination to find the killer, the police may have entangled themselves in a web of mistakes. He now admits he knows who was responsible, but he will not name them for fear of reprisals against both his family and himself, were he to be freed.

Insisting he had been framed, Cleeland conducted his own defence and in 1976 took his case to the Court of Appeal. It was dismissed. "This is clearly one of those cases," said Lord Justice Lawton, "where a number of cunning criminals have got together to concoct a specious and, on the face of it, credible story to discredit the police."

But the appeal judge did not admit as evidence, a sequence of disturbing events since Cleeland's trial involving errors in his prison records. These led to an internal inquiry headed by Mr. E. J. Boothby, Assistant Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, who was called in after allegations by Cleeland that the errors were deliberate and the police evidence which led to his conviction was false.

If Cleeland's story is true, it is a story of a man who, with a degree of resentment against the police and prison authorities, is hardly surprising. The report remains secret. The Home Office refuses to release it, despite repeated requests from MPs, because of the risk of a "leak" which could throw light on what a prominent QC called the "quite unusual number of blemishes in connection with the police evidence", in particular, the discrepancies between the ballistic experts called by Cleeland and the police, and on the "extraordinary coincidence of a number of prison records, affecting or reasonably calculated to affect Mr. Cleeland's appeal". Above all, it could provide the basis for a retrial.

THE ARREST

Cleeland sent out from prison to get as much underworld information about the killing as he could

"In the early hours of November 5, 1972 I was woken by knocking on my front door," Cleeland says. It was the police. "They informed me that a man named Terry Clarke had been shot and killed and asked me if I would be prepared to help with their inquiries." At the station he was asked to make a statement. "To this day I have never changed one line that was written down by the officer."

The police produced what was then one of their only pieces of evidence against him. A woman had allegedly seen him enter his house at 2.30 am on November 5. It turned out to be a neighbour well-known to Cleeland. "I proceeded to say that this woman and her husband were a right pair and that I had had trouble with them since I had moved into my home about a year previous. I said this was not the first time this woman had told the police stories about me and that it was only the presence of an independent witness on a previous occasion that

stopped the police taking action against me regarding what this woman had told them."

While at the station he met Pat Clarke, wife of the dead man. She had seen the killer but not recognised him. He says she told Cleeland: "the person who had fired the gun was about six feet away from Terry and about 20 feet from her." He was "about five feet eight inches, had short dark curly hair and was wearing a dark suit with a vest in the back."

Cleeland who is fair and about 5 feet 11 inches, returned home. Later that day the police came back and asked him to go to the station. This time he was placed in the cells and on November 7 charged with murder. He stood trial early in April 1973 and the jury failed to agree a verdict.

Before the next trial, Cleeland says he "sent out" from prison to get as much information about the killing as he could. What came back from his underworld contacts was that the shotgun being shown at the trial — a "Gye" Moncrieff 12-bore picked up near the murder scene — was not that used to kill Clarke. Second, that two people took part in the killing; one doing the actual killing, the other acting as a "minder". He was told they used a pump rifle (sawn off) and that they used Clarke's own Rover car which he had previously reported stolen. They went down into Essex and dumped the gun in a weir at Harlow. The "minder" was also armed with a sawn-off shotgun and that, too, was dumped in the weir. He also learned that the cartridges used were Ely cartridges; not Blue Rival, as claimed by the police.

Three weeks after Cleeland was charged, according to the notebook of Detective Inspector John Ratcliffe who was in charge of the scene of the crime — two shotguns were recovered from the weir at Harlow, and one was a Westernfield 12-bore repeater.

It was at this point, Cleeland says, that the police realised how difficult things were getting. He felt he had been arrested initially not as a direct suspect but in an effort to get him to talk and had been charged so that he could be kept in custody. When the police believed to be the real murder weapon was found in Harlow weir, the charge against him should have been dropped, he says. Instead, he maintains, the police decided to take a gamble and put up a case against him. But the case contains one glaring inconsistency.

Det. Insp. Ratcliffe records in his notebook that on the morning of November 7 he took to the Metropolitan Police Laboratory in London at 10.30 am (10.30 in oral evidence) two spent Blue Rival cartridges found with the "Gye" Moncrieff 12-bore picked up near the murder scene; 18 live Blue Rival cartridges found near by; and the hand stock of the gun itself. These were examined by Mr. John McCafferty, then principal scientific officer of the laboratory, who said that wadding found near Clarke's car could have come from Blue Rival cartridges. They were returned to Stevenage police station according to the exhibits book, on the 15th.

But another officer, Detective Sergeant Norman Atkinson, the police photographer, said in evidence that on that day, 7th, he took photographs of the scene of the crime until about 11.30 am; then went to Stevenage police station where he collected a shotgun and a quantity of cartridges from Det. Insp. Ratcliffe himself and took these to police headquarters at Welwyn Garden City where they were photographed. The photographs show clearly the handstock of the gun, and the cartridges. According to his notebook, Atkinson turned to HQ at 12.45. Therefore he must have collected the gun between 11.30, when he was last at the scene of the crime, and then, and taken the photographs in the afternoon.

No explanation for this extraordinary contradiction was offered in court. Cross-examined by Cleeland, Ratcliffe said he had a receipt showing the cartridges and handstock to have been delivered to the London laboratory that day and "Sergeant Atkinson must be mistaken."

"How could McCafferty have carried out tests on November 7, 1972, at the Metropolitan Lab, if in fact, we have the photographs that show the McCafferty says he had?" Cleeland asks. As the police said, it could be a mistake. But the evidence of P.C. Kittle gives rise to further concern. On the 7th, the day Ratcliffe said he went to London, P.C. Kittle says he went with the Inspector to the crime scene. Both Cleeland and Mr. McCafferty are giving the correct date of the crime. The correct date is November 5. P.C. Kittle is clearly giving inaccurate evidence.

Ratcliffe, now Superintendent and Commander of Stevenage police, says that he stands by what he said at the trial. "All the defects spoken about by Cleeland were thoroughly investigated in two trials and by Mr. Boothby in an independent investigation," he says; and as far as Sergeant Atkinson's

evidence was concerned, he still believes he was mistaken.

There is one final mystery surrounding the cartridges. The police did buy a control box of 25 Blue Rival cartridges in Stevenage but that was not until Saturday the 11th. If the ones found at the scene were indeed at the laboratory from November 7 to 15, it is unexplained why one witness, Raymond Newton, should have testified in a statement signed November 8 to having been shown a box of 25 Blue Rival cartridges. And why did Ian Graham, another, say he saw such a box on the 10th? Furthermore, an album of photographs showing the loose cartridges was already in the exhibits book by the 9th.

THE GUN EVIDENCE

'Guilty or not guilty the police were wrong over the distance involved'

Little was made of the disturbing discrepancies in ballistic evidence at Cleeland's first trial. With the second one pending, he says: "At this stage my only thought was to get out and I decided the best way for that to be done was to prove to the court that the shotgun produced by the prosecution was not that used to kill Clarke so all the evidence as to that shotgun was useless to convict me of murder."

Cleeland maintains — and his expert, a registered gunmaker, supported him — that the gun in court, fired twice at the distance alleged by Pat Clarke, would have caused more damage to the victim than it did. Pat Clarke said she saw the flash of the gun at about 6 feet from her husband and a neighbour who looked out of his window said he too saw the flash of a second shot about 6 feet from the car.

The Crown's chief witness on the ballistic evidence was Mr. McCafferty, principal scientific officer at the Metropolitan Police Forensic Laboratory, Holborn. McCafferty gave evidence until his retirement at several famous trials including that of James Hanratty, hanged in 1962. At the time of Cleeland's trial McCafferty had 24 years' experience of handling firearms. He was a police liaison officer with the laboratory until his retirement from the force in 1964 when he took over as head of the Metropolitan Police Laboratory's firearms section.

McCafferty told the court that the gun he had examined and tested, the 12-bore "Gye" Moncrieff, produced similar shot patterns to those on the victim's body with the target at 18 feet from the muzzle. No one, he said, had asked him to fire from 18 feet but "I looked and examined the shots spread on the [victim's] garments and from my experience of weapons I selected a range which I thought was probable, fired a cartridge and then adjusted my range by firing additional cartridges until the spread was of the same distance as on the garments."

The two fired cartridges



Since then he has worked from inside prison to prove his innocence. The conflicting evidence shows that, at the very least, the case should be put before another jury.



According to the notebook and evidence of a police photographer, this photograph of cartridges was taken at Hertfordshire Police HQ at Welwyn Garden City on November 7, 1972. But McCafferty and another prison officer testified that on that day these items were being tested in London.

It would have remained one expert's word against another, but for one further opinion, not referred to in the judge's summing up: the evidence of Dr. M. Rufus Crompton, consultant pathologist at St. George's Hospital, London. From studying the autopsy report, photographs and X-rays and examining the body, he concluded that the pellets had not penetrated much deeper than the subcutaneous tissue and were spread over some 12 inches, both front and back, the range was about 36 feet. "Despite this, Cleeland was found guilty. There was other evidence against him: a man and his wife testified they had sold him the gun produced in court; another man said he had bought Cleeland the cartridges and a third said Cleeland had asked him to look after some cartridges. Both the latter were known to Cleeland and both had criminal records. He denies he ever owned or possessed the gun in court or either of the other two guns found in the weir.

Cleeland was sentenced on June 25, 1973, with a recommendation of a minimum 20 years. He lodged notice of appeal, and pending that, further tests on the "Gye" Moncrieff were carried out by J. G. J. Rothery, a registered gunmaker from Portsmouth. These crucial tests, inadmissible at the

Early on November 5, 1972, Paul Cleeland (left), a petty crook from Stevenage, was taken by police and accused of murdering Terry Clarke, another small time criminal. In June 1973, despite his fierce denials, Cleeland was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 20 years.

appeal, up the scales firmly in favour of the defence ballistic evidence.

Rothery concluded after tests on October 8, 1974, in the presence of McCafferty and the police that the gun "must have been fired from a minimum distance of 38ft and a maximum distance of 44ft". Had this firearm been fired at 18ft from the victim as described in Mr. McCafferty's evidence I feel that far more damage would have occurred to the car and to the back of the deceased. The conclusion must, therefore, be drawn that if this gun was used, it was fired at a distance in excess of 38ft, or alternatively, if the range was 18ft, then this gun and cartridge were not used further question mark remains over evidence on lead traces on Cleeland's clothes. McCafferty undertook chemical tests using swabs and found lead traces on the front of his suit and donkey jacket which might, he said, have come from a gun. Another expert, Mr. F. A. Lyne, then president of the Association of Public Analysts, gave evidence saying he had found the same lead contamination but concluded it to be more likely to be "environmental" than due to a single incident.

A more complicated and lengthy test than that undertaken by McCafferty exists, which can differentiate between environmental contamination and lead from firearms. This test involves the use of an electron microscope and ancillary apparatus and depends on time and staff available. But despite the doubts, it was not used.

THE NEW WITNESS

'I knew I had never had an interview with Nash, yet these people were telling me I had'

So the police had secured a conviction, albeit an untidy one. But the matter did not rest there; another witness came to light. Cleeland was sent to look after some cartridges. Both the latter were known to Cleeland and both had criminal records. He denies he ever owned or possessed the gun in court or either of the other two guns found in the weir.

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He made strenuous efforts to see Nash who was eventually seen on his behalf by a member of the prison staff. Cleeland says he was told "Nash was a bit of a romantic and had not been in Stevenage police station."

"When I heard this I was rather mad for the last thing I wanted at that time was a rumour so I decided I would see what could be done about Nash."

Through the prison grapevine Cleeland got in touch with Nash, established that he had after all been at the police station and urged him to contact Cleeland's solicitors. On receiving Nash's statement from his lawyers, Cleeland — by this time at Albany — decided to inform the Court of Appeal that had been able to see Nash at Wandsworth much time would have been saved and second, that a member of the prison staff had told him, wrongly, that Nash could not help him.

It was at this point, early in 1974, that the errors in the prison records first came to light. Cleeland asked the prison governor if he could know the date he had requested to see Nash at Wandsworth. He was informed that according to the records, he had seen Nash on December 4, 1973 in connection with his appeal.

Cleeland petitioned the Home Office in protest. Six weeks later he was told they had found the records to be correct and would stand. He was told that was the end of the matter. "Upon hearing this," Cleeland recounts, "I am afraid I lost my temper, for I knew I had never had an interview with Nash yet these people were telling me I had."

He reasoned that either there had been a mistake, or it was done deliberately with the intention of showing the appeal that he and Nash had colluded, therefore discrediting the latter. "Can you think of any other way of destroying an honest witness? Both myself and Nash would have been discredited once and for all for who would you believe, myself and Nash or the prison records?"

After much thought, Cleeland says, he struck upon the answer to the problem: his Category "A" book, a detailed log of his movements which follows him from prison to prison. This did record a visit on the 4th, but with a man called Alan Russell; not Nash. Yet the prison officer came to the same conclusion, and that was my letter and visit sheets had been altered after my arrival at Albany prison."

This too was referred to Mr. Boothby. His report was completed three years ago. It was to the Director of Public Prosecutions who concluded that there was insufficient evidence for a prosecution, and to this day the Home Office has refused its publication.

What happened next, Cleeland recalls, is the part that makes the whole story truly incredible. In view of the Boothby inquiry, he asked if he could check all his letter and visit sheets since first being remanded. What came to light was that the master sheet, on which details of all previous letter and visit sheets were copied when he moved to Albany in 1973, contained names and addresses that did not appear on the Brixton and Wandsworth sheets with which he was provided.

The missing details must have been on the original sheets when he first arrived at Albany, Cleeland says, otherwise how would the names have been known? "Both myself and the PO [prison officer] came to the same conclusion, and that was my letter and visit sheets had been altered after my arrival at Albany prison."

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CLEELAND'S VERSION

'The heavy mob began to worry. They felt Clarke had become a danger to them and they saw him off'

Why should the police bother to turn to crime, he says, a murder he says he did not commit, if indeed they did so? He maintains they only arrested him to talk and had to charge him to keep him. Both Cleeland and Clarke, the victim, had criminal records. They had known each other since 1961; stood trial together and served terms of imprisonment. A couple of years before the murder there had been a bad fight between them. The motive for the murder — but according to Cleeland it had long since been patched up.

Cleeland's version of events is this: Clarke once more turned to crime. Seeing him mixing with a gang who were always getting caught, Cleeland, on his own admission, put Clarke in touch with another group with whom the latter carried out some robberies.

Things "started to go wrong" when Clarke got mixed up with another man in a "safe job" at a hotel, Cleeland says. A credit card and cheque book were taken and goods purchased. The police caught them both, and Cleeland says did a deal involving their pleading guilty to receiving stolen goods at the magistrates' court in order to avoid the safe-breaking charge going to the crown court.

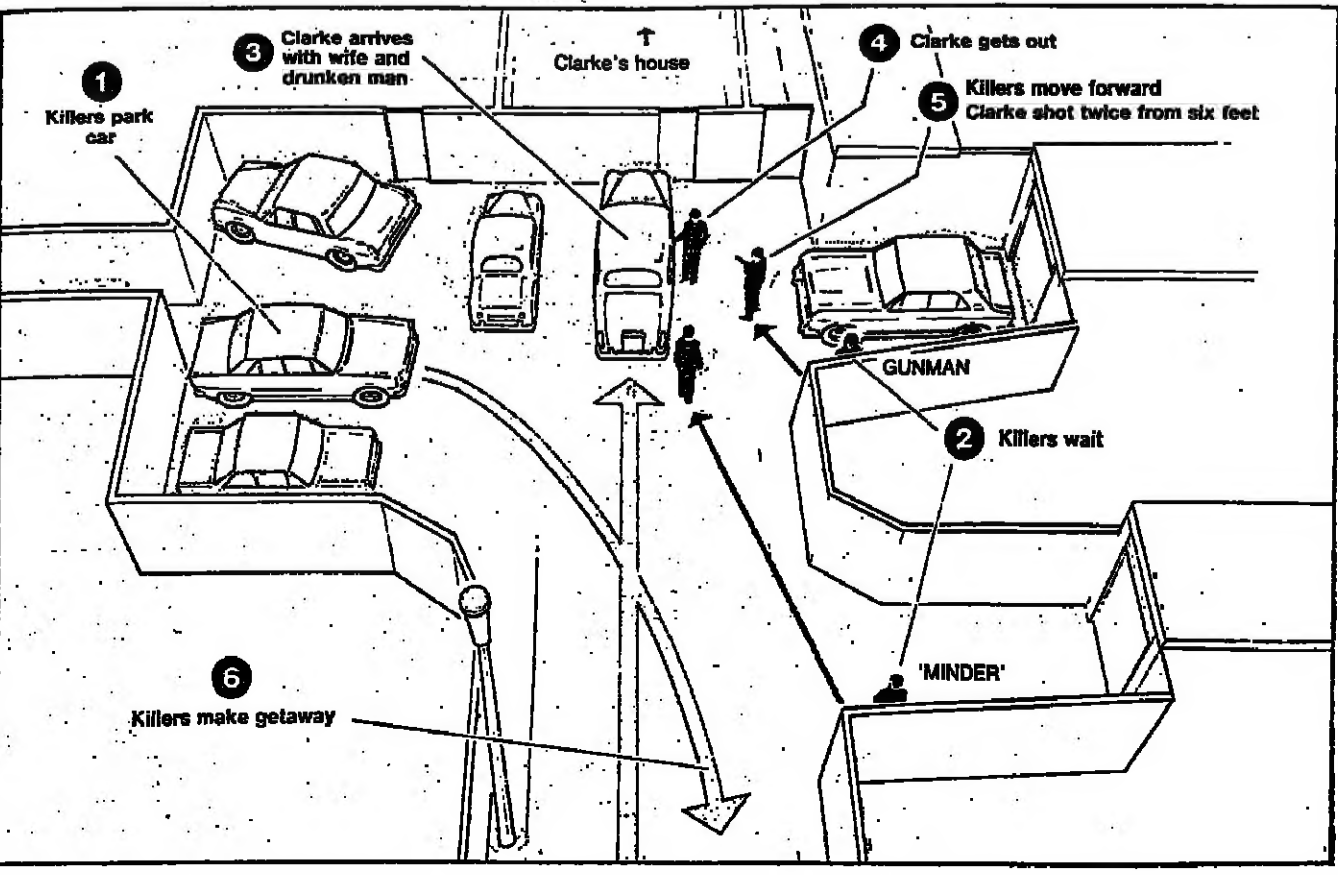
Clarke's associate however would not plead guilty as he was already on parole. Clarke became desperate. He started to negotiate with the police to have the more serious charge dropped, knowing he would face a heavy prison sentence. The "heavy mob", as Cleeland describes those he introduced Clarke to, heard about this and began to worry.

"They felt they could not trust Clarke who had become a danger to them, and although I told them he was all right, they saw him off."

This explanation, plus the Rothery ballistic evidence and the sequence of errors in the prison records have never been before a court. The police play to discover the murderer, if it existed, may have backfired. Having charged Cleeland, they naturally would have pressed their case against him. But the result is a man serving 20 years on the basis of an unsatisfactory conviction and patent inconsistencies in ballistic and other evidence, which in the interests of justice, at least demand a retrial.

How Clarke was murdered: The villains' version

Cleeland's underworld contacts told him that Clarke had been ambushed by two men, both armed with sawn-off shotguns. The murder was witnessed by Clarke's wife and a neighbour from an upstairs window. The killers arrived and escaped in Clarke's Rover car, which he had reported stolen, and dumped their weapons in a weir at Harlow.



Television

Frames of reference

The only case for Peter Prince's *Prisoner* Tomorrow, Bright (BBC 1), as a television backwash of what matters. He finds the picture so fascinating that his picture of Europe in 1999, a totalitarian state committed by its leaders to global warfare, is only conjured up as a commentary on the earlier and war movement and the relative innocence of the confrontation. But a 55-minute play needs more than a media.

An anxious Robin Ellis in the white-tiled foyer of an ominously clinical institution. Is his wife in labour? Has she been castrated? Or have they merely redecorated Television Centre? Such was the failure of Mr Prince and his director, Peter Duffell, to create tension that by the time we learn, several confused flashbacks later, how his daughter was in custody for her part in the assassination of a pro-war politician many viewers must have switched over to professional snooker.

Sarah Berger, combining feminine delicacy with a martyr's steel, and Mr Ellis seized their belated chance for paths in an interview where, like Arthur Miller's *Proctor* and Shaw's *St Joan*, she was persuaded to sign away her integrity only to find that the state gives nothing in exchange. Too late: desultory reminiscence of *Daddy* meeting *Mummy* at an anti-LBJ demo had taken its toll, to say nothing of an interminable party scene showing her fellow-juvs affecting Sixties gear and catchphrases in a highly improbable display of camp.

Throwaway references to habitual street violence, compulsory conscription and dictatorship by Euro-edited larders the script as awkwardly as historical touches in third-rate costume drama. At least the designer, Nigel Curzon, had fun with the frigidly elegant futuristic sets, including an interview room that managed to be terrifying by sheer geometry. But, if this series of tomorrow is right, the graffiti may well be prophetic that says it has been cancelled for lack of interest.

Anthony Masters

Interview: Philip Prowse

Encouraging directions

"Whether this works or whether it doesn't, I hope I'll have the courage to go back to Glasgow and leave the London theatre to die the death it so richly deserves — a death caused by directors who have not the faintest sense of design, actors who believe that a play can exist on a page instead of a stage, and audiences still willing to pay for provincial, parochial, puritanical rubbish".

Thus Philip Prowse, joint artistic director (with Miles Havergal and Robert David MacDonald) of the Glasgow Citizens' Theatre and now the director of MacDonald's play *Summit Conference*, which opens at the Lyric on April 28 after a week of previews. Originally seen, though with a rather less starry cast, two seasons ago in Glasgow, the play concerns a dramatic, often hilarious yet totally fictitious meeting in Berlin in 1941 between those two celebrated mistresses Eva Braun and Clara Petacci while their menfolk, Hitler and Mussolini, are otherwise engaged. The entire cast now consists of Glenda Jackson, Georgina Hale and (as a young German soldier) Gary Oldman, but even with two stars of that calibre Prowse is unsure whether his first London production has a chance of success.

"It's not your usual West End fare, thank God, and in fact it was never intended to be seen down here: David wrote it for our Glasgow company, and we did it there and I never expected to see it again, until a producer called Colin Brough rang up and told me that Glenda had read it and was keen to do it and would I direct? Actually he didn't have a lot of choice, since there was a clause in David's contract saying that the play couldn't be done without me".

That Glasgow triumvirate tends to stick together. Two of them, Prowse and Havergal, in fact started to work together as designer and director in the late 1960s when Havergal was in charge of a very different local theatre in Watford. "He asked me to do the sets for some of his productions there and for the first time in my life I found some sort of company spirit, some idea of what a theatre was supposed to be about. But it was a civic theatre and there was a sudden clampdown on funds in the classic Tory tradition of artistic repression. We'd been getting a lot of very good star names in audacious shows — Vivien Merchant came to do *Sweet Bird of Youth* and then Pinter played *Lenny* for us in a production

of his *The Homecoming* — but that all got rather upmarket expensive, so we began discussing a new policy with only very young actors which we were just starting to put into action when the money and the local enthusiasm ran out; so we moved north to Glasgow.

"There too we started with a policy of famous old ladies in milk-lined vehicles, but Glasgow rapidly decided that Constance Cummings in Tennessee Williams's *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Any More* was Southern degenerate rubbish, so we moved on in 1970 to the policy we've stuck to ever since of a very young company in a wide range of new and classic work.

"Giles has this extraordinary improvisatory ability to take a mix of apparently ill-suited people and turn them into a team; he also is one of those very rare directors who relish being a house manager, so that he still stands in that bloody Glasgow foyer every night, all six foot four of him, and age hasn't made his appearance any more conventional, saying 'Good evening' to bewildered Glaswegians.

"Of course there was a certain culture shock in going straight from Watford to Glasgow, but it really is the most remarkably cosmopolitan city: no colour problems, no religious bigotry, and they seemed to accept us even sooner than we accepted them. Our only problem was a middle-class supposedly cultured elite who kept making bizarre demands to see 'Scottish classics' on stage, whatever they might be. Luckily there's now Euan Hooper's Scottish Theatre Company to keep them quiet, and we can get on with the plays we believe in. I'd make only two claims for our first ten years at the Citizens: we kept an apparently dying theatre in existence, and we found a way (thanks to an extremely tolerant and enlightened board of management) of giving ourselves total artistic freedom."

Three years into their Glasgow management Havergal and Prowse were joined by the playwright

MacDonald, and at around that time Prowse decided that, as he was in a position of some power, he would also encourage himself to direct. "I'd always been a designer, and the other two choked a lot when I told them the news, but they seem to have taken it very well. My problem now is that in order to get taken seriously elsewhere as a director I have to turn down a lot of very lucrative opera and play design jobs. As a designer I stick to ballet, which is where I started."

Born 43 years ago in the Midlands, a sailor's son, Prowse grew up on the huge Litter Christmas pantomime extravaganzas in Birmingham, and by the age of 18 he was studying at the Slade. "They had this appalling concept of 'painters for the theatre' instead of 'real designers', but it was a good place to have been and I was lucky enough to get to Covent Garden in 1961, so I spent the next few years in reasonably constant work as a freelance ballet designer, working for directors who if they came from Europe did at least have some remote idea of what design was all about. Over here the usual lack of money backstage has been turned into a terrible sort of virtue, so that true design in the European theatre sense is still virtually unknown.

"For a long time after I went to Glasgow I still kept pretending that I really wanted to be a designer first and a director second; actors in rehearsal made me very nervous, because I'd only ever met them in pubs or fitting-rooms and it took me a long time to get my ideas across." When he did, the result was a series of remarkable Glasgow productions including the professional world premiere of Coward's *Semi-Monde* (a kind of *Grand Hotel* on stage) and a *Duchess of Malfi* which went to the Theatre of Nations festival at a time when its other visiting directors were Barrault and Bergman.

"Around then I began to think that I really could be a full-time director, though until now I've only ever worked with our Glasgow

companies and I find in London when you're pushing eminent ladies about the stage you have to mind your manners rather more. Writers seem to have got a lot softer here in London, too, since I went away; we are living on a myth of Great English Theatre. You go to Stratford and sit amid five hundred Japanese tourists watching a totally terrible *Taming of the Shrew* and you suddenly realize that they've no way of telling how terrible it is. It's like us going to Tokyo and gawping at Kabuki. How do we know it's not rubbish too?"

"Directing is all about realizing that a script is only the beginning; it's only what the actors actually say on stage. If a play exists perfectly on the page, then there's no point in doing it on the stage; a good script is only a notation of what people say. What happens then is up to a director; maybe that's why I seem to do so few modern plays. It doesn't help having the author standing around at rehearsal. In ballet the power of the director is total and accepted; in drama he's still supposed to be part of the team, and that's how you get all the rubbish."

"The wonderful thing about Glasgow is that most of our audiences have never been to a theatre before they come to us, so they aren't sitting there complaining that it wasn't done like that at the Vic, and the actors too are new to it, so I listen to their ideas. Sometimes, otherwise we might just as well save the money and have Gordon Craig's marionettes. But the curious thing about the actors we started at Glasgow over the last decade — Cheryl Campbell, John Duttine, Paula Donaldson, Rupert Fraser — is that when I see them in London or on television I can hardly recognize them at all. Something seems to happen to people when they leave the Citizens." Which is, just possibly, why Mr Prowse plans to stay there.

Sheridan Morley

Cinema

African adventures of fear and sympathy

The internationalism of film never ceases to surprise. Tomorrow London sees a production originating from the Swedish Film Institute, filmed entirely on location in Zambia, with a Swedish crew, with British, American and African actors, written and directed by a Rhodesia-raised Briton from the work of a South African novelist. *The Grass is Singing* was published in 1950, and it gave Doris Lessing her European stature. Michael Raburn is a documentarist whose interest in Black Africa attracted him to the novel for his first feature. John Thaw shed his television persona to play a failing up-country farmer who marries a town woman frightened by a looming spectacle of old-maidship. Unable to adjust to the flies, heat, tin-roofed homestead and native resentment she goes mad and is savagely murdered.

At the core of the film is a remarkable performance by Karen Black, who offers a brilliantly controlled study of a neurotic woman tripping over the threshold into insanity without forsaking the capacity to evoke sympathy and fear for the eventual tragedy.

The actress has had an interesting career: more than 30 films since her debut in Francis Coppola's *You're a Big Boy Now*, when he, too, was an unknown, and she has worked with many major directors — Hitchcock, Clayton, Schlesinger, Mike Nichols and Altman among them. For the last of these she recently appeared in a Broadway play, *Come Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*. With a title like that it probably deserved its run of a mere six weeks. The critics roasted Altman, although he had invested much original and inventive stagecraft in the production, when the piece itself was so trivial that it scarcely warranted his attention — unless to demonstrate how ineffective it is to use sledgehammers to crack nuts.

"They'd change the schedule, telling Michael at the last moment. He was wonderful with the African actors, in fact he could make an actor of any of them. But he'd send someone out into the bush for the next day's shooting and then they'd tell him the schedule had changed, and they couldn't telephone the man waiting out there because there was no phone."

"The Swedes found the conditions strange. They'd be sent to a hotel and find that they couldn't take a shower, only a bath. So what would complain, and as for what they said about the lizards and the flies, and the heat and the distances! John Thaw was very funny — he's one of those people who can tell the story over and over again and still make it sound funny. He was worried about being typecast by *The Sweeney*. I think he worries too much about it. You just have to play the part and find the truth in it."

"This year she reaches her thirty-ninth birthday. She lives in Greenwich Village with her six-year-old son Hunter. "It took months to find that name — his father wanted to call him Liberty, and other names of that sort." She was raised in Illinois, in a suburb of Chicago. "I came to New York when I was 18 just like a nitwit, but I was too much of a nitwit to know I was one. I never thought of being in movies. I did all the rounds, and I worked at switchboards, waitressing, all that stuff. During my first trip to Los Angeles I did the Coppola movie. I became ill on the plane, and I thought my ears were going to burst. And then I was put in a car and driven out into the bright light. When I first saw the Sunset Strip I wanted to vomit."

"The next thing I shall do is a film called *Deep Purple*. It's set in 1939, in a sort of Walker Evans America of empty spaces, gunnysacks, and farm and glimmering mud and truck tyres and Pepsi signs corroded by the weather. It will be directed by Paul Williams who made *The Revolutionary* with Jon Voight. It's about a woman who is looking for and thinks she has found the child of a man who has given up for adoption, but it's not really her daughter. Anyhow, I like it."

It was a disappointment for Karen Black, who began her career on the stage, and was hit on Broadway in a thriller, *Playroom*, before going to Hollywood. Like most people who have worked with Altman, she has enormous respect for his skills in handling actors and was easily persuaded into going back on the stage to play a transsexual in a silly play.

Not that she has not done even sillier films. One recalls, for example, *Airport 75*, in which she was a stewardess who piloted a stricken 747 to a safe landing, achieving it, as aviation experts noted, without using the rudder. But then she also made *Five Easy Pieces*, with Jack Nicholson.

George Perry

Theatre

Dramatic overkill

Not Quite Jerusalem

Royal Court

As Paul Kember's play vanished from the Royal Court stage before the production could reap the benefits of its *Evening Standard* award, here is another chance to catch up with the work of "the most promising playwright of 1980".

As labels go, that seems pretty fair. *Not Quite Jerusalem* records the experiences of a miscellaneous group of young English volunteers on a kibbutz, all wet behind the ears on arrival and variously sadder and wiser at the end. Mr Kember writes as if he knows his subject at first hand and has the resolution to build his plot out of everyday incidents; and selects his material so as to present a controlled experiment in living together for a national team who are famously not very good at it.

On the negative side, the everyday-life approach denies the piece any strong forward drive, and the metaphorical element is delivered in a solemn, didactic finale instead of arising from the story itself.

The two acts might be subtitled "work" and "play", and the first is much the better of the two. In it we see the unhappy volunteers arriving in the midst of a desert rainstorm and miserably getting acquainted under the unsympathetic gaze of an Israeli liaison officer and a strapping kibbutz girl, Gila, with a strong (and, as it

proves, well founded) prejudice against the English.

There are a couple of working-class boys, one fresh from sight-seeing in Tel Aviv ("that took a good half-hour"), a self-styled Birmingham nurse with cultural pretensions, and Mike, a Cambridge drop-out — the obvious group-leader who characteristically turns the job down.

With introductions out of the way, the action moves on to the cowshed, where Mr Kember keeps up an ingenious flow of comic bracking, showing Mike breaking through Gila's belligerent defences with a well-placed gag, and the nurse fainting dead away at the sight of blood. Meanwhile, the kibbutz ethic is gradually unfolding, and sharpening up the contrast between Israeli direct enthusiasm and British evasive apathy.

That comes to a head in the second act, where the chore of appearing in the camp show stirs the working-class boys into a Crazy Gang medley ending with a sudden claspdown on funds in the classic Tory tradition of artistic repression. We'd been getting a lot of very good star names in audacious shows — Vivien Merchant came to do *Sweet Bird of Youth* and then Pinter played *Lenny* for us in a production

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"Not Quite Jerusalem": David Threlfall, Leslee Udwin

on the other Brits that you are much more aware of them as two yobs and a spinster hysteric than as victims of impoverishing backgrounds.

There remains some excellent comic acting in Les Waters's production, particularly from Kevin McNally as Harlow's own laughing boy and Leslee Udwin as the seductively pugnacious tractor girl.

Irving Wardle

Love in Vain

Tricycle

Bob Mason may be too new to playwrighting to recognize the chances he missed. In retelling the story of Robert Johnson he pushes straight through the chronology from the time the boy ran away from a Mississippi plantation

at the age of 16 to the moment of his death by poison a decade later in 1938. He invents the life from Johnson's blues songs; supposing that Betty Mae was the childhood sweetheart whom he left behind to a savage husband and casual whoring, and that she kills him in a recording session at the urging of his entire home town.

Though the death is the inevitable end, and will be known to admirers of Johnson's music and anyone who bothers to read the programme notes, it is not actually a climactic event. There is one fine gimmick in the ending, which inaccurately has Johnson recording his last songs after being told by Betty Mae that she has poisoned him. Julius Lieberman, who is a physically pale but musically strong copy of Johnson, is at his best in that last scene, refusing to die, or do anything about the poison, until he has made sure

Opera

A nasty lot, nicely portrayed

Agrippina

Sadler's Wells

Winton Dean has categorized *Agrippina* as one of Handel's "antiheroic operas". Of the eight characters only one, Otho, is at all admirable: the others, Grimoire's text says, Handel's music either make mockery or paint in unfattering colours — reasonably, since they include the Roman emperor Claudius, his wife Agrippina, her son Nero and his subsequent wife Poppaea.

Kent Opera's production, to be seen in London this week (the remaining performance is tomorrow), is a joint effort by Christopher Bruce and Norman Platt, who do not scruple to expose the absurdity of Claudius's pos-

turing self-glorification and the simpering, sulky malignity and sexual thirst of Nero — and indeed to mock the nature of *da capo* aria form itself, which Handel in his Italian apprentice years was not yet ready to shorten and vary, as he did for London taste.

Stanley Sadie reviewed the production when it was first shown. It only remains for me to praise again the lovely, stylish settings by Roger Butler, to connive at David Thomas's clownish caricature of Claudius — if chiefly for the clowns as expertly as he sings the part — and to express admiration for Felicity Palmer's powerful, eloquent portrayal of the title role, a horrible creature, absolutely serious and marvellous to listen to.

Cynthia Buchan's nasty

stripling Nero is almost a collector's piece. She had trouble on Monday with her first quick aria in the last act, "Coll' ardor del tuo core", chiefly because she was set so precipitous a pace by the young conductor Ivan Fischer, who raises eyebrows with his special orchestral effects, but certainly knows how to make a "baroque" orchestra sound well.

Paul Esswood has the ungrateful task of playing the only good guy in wicked world, as boring as Sir Galahad in Arthurian legend: Esswood looks suitably robust, and sings his music with real nobility. Otho is the lucky man who finally gets Meryl Drower's luscious sweetmeat Poppaea. She is another good reason for seeing and hearing Handel's *Agrippina*.

William Mann

Concert

Plausible economy

Parley of Instruments

St George's, Hanover Square

Instead of a choir, the Parley of Instruments used the voices of Elizabeth Lane (deputizing for the sick Emma Kirby), Ian Partridge and Stephen Roberts for three of Handel's Chandos Anthems which they performed at their London Handel Festival concert on Monday. The excuse for such economy was plausible enough. That was how the Duke of Chandos would probably have heard them in the second decade of the 1700s.

By then Handel's Italian flame had been half quenched by his deference to English refinement. And once we had accepted the usual vagaries of baroque oboe playing, the musicians on Monday responded stylishly to Handel's subtle invention.

Perhaps in *O Sing unto the Lord* Miss Lane and Mr Partridge could have added weight to their suspensions in the duet "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" and the fury of "The waves of the sea rage horribly" was tempered by poor instrumental coordination. But *As Pants the Heart* was performed with lavish yearning, evoking appositely the dryness of a still, sun-baked Mediterranean afternoon. *I Will Magnify Thee* elicited some of the best violin playing of the evening, complementing rapturously Miss Lane's spontaneous expressiveness in the aria "The Lord is righteous".

As if to hint at the distant sources of this music, the Parley included three sacred pieces by Monteverdi. Two simple hymn settings were counterbalanced by the more daring, two-voice version of *Confitebor tibi, Domine*. Here

Miss Lane and Mr Partridge engaged in colourful, erotic dialogue, crowned by the two violins ushering them out gently with the dying echoes of the final, spare "Amen".

Stephen Pettitt

Second Stride, a contemporary dance company presenting works by Siobhan Davies, Ian Spink and Richard Alston, makes its debut at the Oxford Playhouse on May 5. After a British tour, which will include a London season at Riverside Studios from June 8 to 13, the company leaves for a four-week visit to the United States.



Karen Black: study of neurosis

It was a disappointment for Karen Black, who began her career on the stage, and was hit on Broadway in a thriller, *Playroom*, before going to Hollywood. Like most people who have worked with Altman, she has enormous respect for his skills in handling actors and was easily persuaded into going back on the stage to play a transsexual in a silly play.

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George Perry

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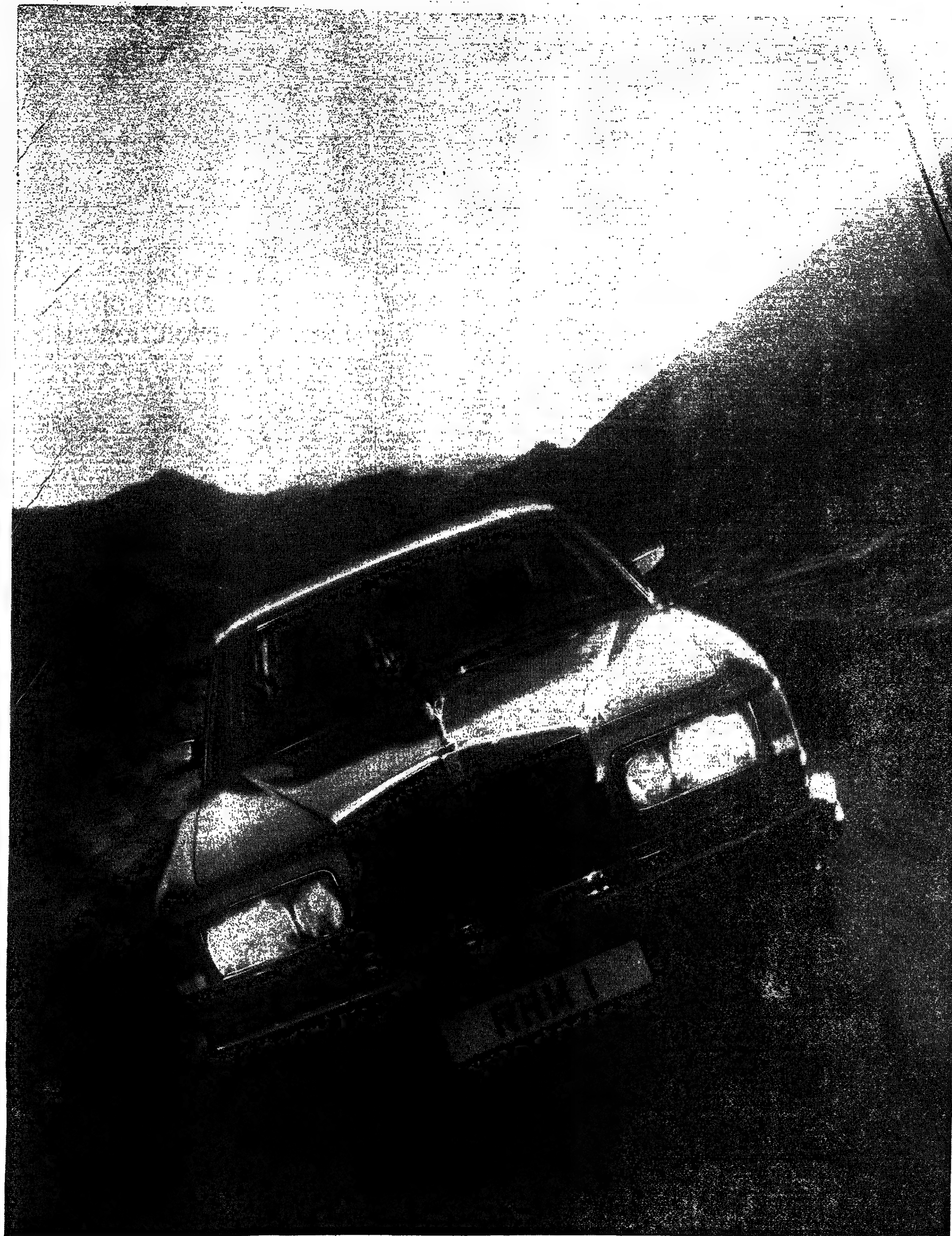
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FIRST PRINCIPLES FIRST

When begin with blows, but then reverse come upon them they have recourse to words," said the Athenians long before such a device occurred to Argentina. The crisis of the Falkland Islands has been provoked by their decision to invade, not by the 150-year-old history of disputed claims between Britain and Argentina over the sovereignty of those islands. There have been occasions during that time when Britain has refused to discuss the dispute or negotiate aspects of it. However, there have also been occasions, notably in 1948, when Britain offered to join with Argentina in a referral to the International Court at the Hague. Argentina refused; an act which was hardly consistent with its oft-proclaimed view of the soundness of its claim to sovereignty.

Inevitably, in negotiations, the desire to reach agreement threatens both sides' desire to secure objectives. When interrupted by an aggression, the only sound principle to apply is to restore the situation to that which obtained before the aggression. Failure to do so would only encourage every negotiator to seek to advance his cause by recourse to aggressive tactics whenever the pace of negotiations frustrated him. Yet the peaceful resolution of all disputes lies at the very heart of contemporary international law.

The British Government is wise therefore to avoid being hustled into accepting any formula offered by Argentina through Mr Haig simply because the world community would prefer the disputants to reach any agreed agreement sooner rather than a clearer one later. The world community is only a community because it has come to respect certain laws and conventions — certain modes of behaviour between states — which it has as much interest in respecting and preserving as Britain has. Those laws, that convention, have been flouted by Argentina; if the world community, in the interests of a quiet life, or under the particular influence of regional or post-colonial prejudices which have no relevance to this general principle, nevertheless wants to forget the principle, Britain must not forget it herself; and Argentina must come, perforce, to remember it.

Mr Haig's return to Washington indicated that he felt he had extracted all possible concessions from President Galtieri's Junta. It was right that he did not fly back to London with the Argentine proposals. That would seem to have implied that there was something which he felt he could endorse to the British Government and such an implication would have put undesired pressure on British ministers to appear cooperative. Mr Haig has not endorsed the Argentine proposals; and Mr Pym's forthcoming visit to Washington is rightly conceived as a British desire to continue negotiating while the fleet, which may have to squeeze more out of Argentina than Mr Haig has been able to

squeeze, continues its passage south. Nelson described a fleet of British ships of war as the "best negotiators" in Europe; that may now have to apply even more so to the South Atlantic.

The original ingredients of this crisis are thus still with us, and virtually unchanged since the day of the first aggression. First, there is the law, both in regard to sovereignty and to the resolution of disputes between states. It is not necessary to go into copious legal detail to establish that Britain's title to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands was absolutely lawful at the time it was originally established, and — whatever new circumstances now apply — that is still the legal basis on which sovereignty is assessed. Moreover, the claim by Argentina to extend its continental shelf to include the Falkland Islands is not only legally questionable as regards the shelf, but, even if valid, would not affect the issue of sovereignty of the land above the shelf. The Falklands belong to Britain.

Legally speaking the invasion was also in breach of all current international laws. It was in breach of the UN Charter to refrain from the use of force against a country's territorial integrity and it was also in breach of the general obligation to pursue disputes through peaceful means. Finally, in law, Britain is fully covered under Article 51 to take action against aggression consistent with its inherent right of self defence though such action must be limited and proportionate. Nothing yet planned or suggested — task force, exclusion zone, or even reoccupation — exceeds that right.

The next aspect of the crisis concerns the people of the Falklands. There is again an undeniable legal right recognized by the international community to enable peoples to have self determination, either by independence, or through associate status, or by integration with other countries; but all by consent. The Falklanders are undeniably a "people" in this sense; and such a people is entitled to express its wishes through its elected leadership. So the Argentine invasion is also in breach of Article 24 of the UN Charter, concerning the right of all peoples to self-determination. In the interests of preserving respect for international law, therefore, enshrined in the UN Charter, and amplified by the recent Security Council resolution, nothing can or should now be agreed to which compromises those legal principles.

The third dimension of the crisis is the position of the two Governments at odds with each other. We have to respect the fact that, though illegal, the Argentine invasion represents perhaps the only popular event in recent Argentine history. The uncertainties and tensions within the Junta, and perhaps an underlying sense of Spanish machismo appalled at the prospect of losing a contest of wills with a woman, are not unimportant psychological factors when assessing the capacity of Argentina to give way on these fundamental

principles. But one should not be too bamboozled or seduced by such an argument. Argentina has shown in its dispute with Chile that it resolutely disregards the verdicts of mediators when they go against it. Several times Argentina and Chile have taken their dispute about the Beagle Channel to a mediator and when each time the verdict has gone to Chile, Argentina has revoked its agreement to abide by the verdict. The precedents therefore are discouraging.

Of course, there is much to negotiate about after these principles have been vindicated. There can be some room for an Argentine presence on the Falklands during the period when the wishes of the Islanders are being determined — though only under the most stringent conditions. There can also be a greater readiness on the part of the British Government to recognize that the issue of sovereignty is in dispute, emotionally, if not legally, and has to be resolved sometime soon. Perhaps Britain should suggest to Argentina that it is now taken to the Hague, where it belongs more than in the operations rooms of opposing navies.

It is held that overemphasis on the interests of the Islanders artificially narrows the issues and excludes a wider interest which should concern Britain's relationships with the whole continent of Latin America. But there are two sides to this argument. The frontiers of Latin America are not hermetically sealed with the authority of history. Disputes abound, which might find a new stimulus in the spectacle of Argentina successfully achieving an extension to her frontiers, and the upholding of a spurious claim, simply by force of arms. Belize is under threat; so is Guyana; Peru and Bolivia both contain strong revanchist claims on Chile; as does Argentina itself in the Beagle Channel. Moreover the arguments which Argentina maintains to uphold its claim to the Falklands might entitle Mexico some time in the future to advance the same kind of theories for reclaiming much of the Pacific southwest from the United States. Mr Haig — or more particularly Mrs Kirkpatrick — might brood seriously on that implication.

Obviously Britain's interests in Latin America will be damaged by a refusal to compromise on this dispute without letting the situation deteriorate further, perhaps even to the point where a serious political crisis is provoked in Argentina. That damage to Britain will have to be weighed up against an even wider interest in the world, to uphold international law, and to be seen to be a country which has the will and capacity to honour its word not only in legal matters but in the much more crucial area of the defence of its people. "Britain has no eternal allies; and no eternal enemies. Only our interests are eternal," said Lord Palmerston. Our interests here require us to resolve this dispute peacefully if possible, but only in accordance with first principles.

THE TEMPTATION OF CHEAP PROMISES

The further away a party feels itself to be from political power, the sillier the promises it will make in order to win it. As the local elections approach, the Labour Party is again flirting with the temptation to make exactly the same mistake if it gains national power as it made last time it did so, in 1974. The National Executive has not yet given its blessing to the proposal, publicly launched this week, for a year's freeze on council rents, but the pressures within the party to do so are strong.

In normal circumstances Labour would now be looking forward to dramatic gains in local elections fought against an unpopular government, for seats last contested at a moment when Labour itself was at a low point of popularity. But the decline in trust for Labour, and the rise of the Alliance, may have changed all that. Gains may well be modest. An eye-catching selling-point is needed, and a rents freeze may win some votes from tenants smarting from recent rent rises.

But some leaders in the party remember what happened after 1974. Whether they prevail or not will provide a clue to the current balance of power inside the party between Her Majesty's alternative Government and the vendors of undated promises and haywire theories. When Labour came to power, average council rents were 7.9 per cent of average earnings. The year's freeze ended at about the same time as inflation began to gather pace

as a result of the Government's other mismanagements. It was judged to be politically impossible to make up the lost ground, and by the time Labour lost office average rents had fallen to no more than 6.3 per cent of average earnings — far below the level required even to cover housing management and maintenance costs.

The new administration came to power determined to reverse this trend decisively: after successive increases, average rents have risen this year to a level twice as high, in cash terms, as that of 1979. Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on housing, claimed in December that this would bring them up to nine per cent of average earnings. The increase is certainly a stiff one over a short period, representing a larger rise in housing costs than families in other tenures have had to face.

But it is striking that there has been no strong movement of protest against the increase, even in London, where Mr Peter Tatchell has been busily promoting the idea of a rent strike. Undoubtedly this is because of the energetic steps taken to improve provision for tenants who find it hard to pay. A quarter of all tenants will have had their month's increase wholly met by supplementary benefit; another quarter qualify for rebates meeting 60 per cent of it. Maximum rebates have been trebled, and eligibility widened. That is the right approach. Council housing

should not be charity housing for the poor. A quarter of tenant households today have an income of £8,000 or more. Subsidy aimed effectively at those who need it is the way to ensure that the sector does not sink further towards charitable status.

Responsible Labour leaders know that. All the time the party was courting popularity in the seventies by shirking necessary increases, its official policy was that "over a period of years rents should keep broadly in line with changes in money incomes". The consequences of failure to live up to that principle were soon apparent. As real rents fell, central subsidy to housing had to rise — by almost a fifth in real terms. The more subsidy the revenue account swallowed up, the less was available for capital spending.

As early as 1975 housing starts began to fall; by 1979 the headlong decline was in full spate. Wider public spending cuts continued until last year in spite of rising rents, but at the end of last year starts were 16 per cent up on a year earlier. Mr Peter Shore means, if he becomes Chancellor, to revive the economy with public works, especially in housing. If he does not head off the people in his party who can see no further than May, he will find, if he gets his chance, that the resources he needs for his investment will stream away into subsidies for the tenants who do not need them.

Keeping vehicles off pavements

From Mr Graham Chaine

Sir, A recently published Government report tells us (report, April 16) that our pavements and footways are deteriorating, that millions of pounds in compensation is paid annually to pedestrians who have fallen and sustained injuries as a result, and that much of the blame for the situation attaches to vehicles which mount the pavement. The average walker in most British urban areas does not need a 100-page report to know this. The encroachment of cars, lorries and motor cycles on to the pavement is a rapidly spreading offence. With streets increasingly congested and parking space increasingly hard to find, motorists now look upon pavements as an opportune extension of their domain, regardless of the rights of pedestrians or of the fact that driving on the pavement contravenes the Highway Act of 1935 (Section 7 of the Road Traffic Act of 1974, which specifically bans parking on the pavement, though passed by Parliament, has yet to be implemented).

There are many streets in the West End of London, to take only one example, where the walker now often finds his way totally blocked and is obliged to risk his person in the carriageway. The police often claim to have more important offences to deal with, but surely it is in the interest of local councils, who have to foot the bill for smashed pavements and other damage, to try to check this abuse. The solution in many urban areas would seem to be simple: large numbers of strategically placed bollards. Bollards from pre-motorised times have constituted the pedestrian's traditional protection against wheeled menace; they need not be unsightly nor expensive; certainly the single expense of their installation would compare favourably with the endless outlay on pavement repairs.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CHAINE,
47 St Barnabas Road,
Camden, N.1.
April 18.

University Principal

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London

Sir, It is bad enough to read in *The Times* (April 20) of an appointment to the Principality of London University before ever such an appointment has been made. But to read in addition the names of allegedly unsuccessful candidates is still more seriously disturbing.

April as "the cruellest month" is one characteristic of *Ellis's Waste Land* too, and I recall that in April, 1981, Lord Scarman had to protest to you in the strongest terms of "the damage" you had caused "to the true interests of a great university" and the embarrassment, even distress, to individuals.

That was in connection with the Vice-Chancellorship. This new irresponsibility deserves equally vigorous reproof and equally profound apology to the gentlemen named. Yours faithfully,
RANDOLPH QUIRK,
University of London,
Senate House,
Malet Street, W.C1.
April 20.

Channel tunnel

From Mr Roger Coombs

Sir, Your leader on the doubtful future of the Channel tunnel (April 14) suggests that British Rail's "mousehole" raises no environmental problems. In the same breath you declare, somewhat wistfully, how pleasant it would be to have "car and container trains from Kent to all parts of Europe".

Not so, Sir, for the people of Kent and those who love its byways of orchards and hop gardens! If the mousehole is to emerge in Kent at the kind of road-rail interchange you hanker after then our rural roads would be ravaged by intolerable traffic funded from all parts of the country — an environmental consequence that has been continually discounted by politicians and planners.

Your comment on the Cairncross report also suggests a crucial difference between the 1974 and 1982 concepts — the abandonment of the high-speed rail link between London and the tunnel. This above all other factors makes the Rail scheme ineffectual and uncompetitive compared with existing ways of crossing the Channel.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER COOMBS,
Spindlers,
Goudhurst, Kent.

Chiming in concert

From Professor Sydney A. Urry

Sir, Many quartz watches now on the market possess a so-called hourly chime. I am sure that this facility serves a useful purpose but at a recent Barbican concert I found that these timepieces can be distracting during a quiet passage in the music.

What will happen if these devices become universal among audiences? The accuracy of the timekeeping might result in two thousand of them, sounding simultaneously. At a conference on micro-chip technology, this might not be inappropriate but in the theatre it could only lead to weight to Othello's cry, "Silence that dreadful bell!"

Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY A. URRY,
12 Whitfield Road,
Hugheyden Valley,
High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire.
April 15.

British principles in Falklands context

From Lord Jenkins of Putney

Sir, The talk of principles in connection with the Falklands dispute, whether in Parliament or in your columns, is singularly unconvincing. The country of Suez, Cyprus, Diego Garcia and the British Nationality Act cannot effectively disguise its current bout of post-imperial jingoism as a world crusade against aggression. Only yesterday we were pocketing the dictator's pesos in exchange for the military means of his attack, and even now our bankers are once again taking the view that it may be unpatriotic but it makes sense not to be too financially tough on the aggressor.

I am no more a supporter of President Reagan than of Mrs Thatcher, but Lord Bethell's argument (April 16) that by working to secure a peaceful solution of the Falklands crisis the United States is compromising its doubtful devotion to democracy is outrageous. To say the least of it, it is a very ungracious response to Mr Haig's untiring efforts to get us out of this mess.

If we are so concerned to teach aggressors a lesson why did we find the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, where we had forces on the spot, so acceptable that Turkey is still in democratic NATO? Is their junta so much better than the Argentinean one?

Of course, any American Government, North or South, is an American Government and must regard our retention of the Falklands as a colonial hangover which we should have shed long ago. It is no use prating about the paramountcy of the Islanders because the Americans know we can be bribed. For some nuclear weaponry for Polaris on the cheap, we not merely abandoned more of the Queen's subjects than live on the Falklands to their fate, we threw them off Diego Garcia into abject poverty in Mauritius and handed over their depopulated island to the U.S. Forces. The Americans and others also know that only a few weeks ago this principle of sovereignty denied to the Falklanders the fully British status they reluctantly had to concede to the Gibraltarians.

It is time we came off it and adjusted ourselves to our real status in the world, which is that of the most artistic nation on earth.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH JENKINS,
House of Lords.
April 17.

From Mr Derrick Wyatt
Sir, If the United Kingdom and Argentina are in dispute about the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, which is a legal dispute if ever there was one, the International Court of Justice would appear to provide a more appropriate means of settlement than indirect negotiation.

Let the Argentinean troops withdraw, and the fleet stay in hand, pending the decision of the

International Court of Justice.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WYATT,
Perthshire.
April 19.

Christians and war

From the Chairman of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

Sir, For any Christian country to go to war is an affront to its professed faith. For two Christian nations to go to war against each other is a blatant denial of that faith.

The Churches of our own nation, meeting in the Lambeth conferences, have five times declared that "war as a method of settling international disputes is incompatible with the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ".

At the latest Lambeth Conference in 1978 they went even further and declared that Jesus "made evident that self-giving love, the way of the Cross, is the way to reconciliation in all relationships and conflicts. Therefore the use of violence is ultimately contradictory to the Gospel".

Would the bishops now be willing to tell the nation that this truth does not apply to the particular conflict in which our nation is now engaged, and that therefore the Gospel should be suspended for the period of the emergency? Or would they be prepared to say that in the name of Christ a Christian solution must be found?

After all, there is a clear precedent for exactly such a

solution concerning one of the nations involved in the present conflict. At the beginning of this century, when Chile and Argentina were about to go to war against each other, they desisted in the name of Christ. Instead, out of old Argentinean cannon, they erected on the border between the two countries a great bronze statue of Christ. The inscription read, and still reads: "These mountains will fall before Argentines and Chileans break the peace sworn at the feet of Christ the Redeemer".

Acting on such a wonderful precedent, could not the two Christian nations involved in the present dispute make peace with one another in the name of Christ, and out of the money they would otherwise have spent in slaughtering one another with expensive and deadly modern weapons build, say, an abbey on the Falkland Islands as a shrine of peace?

Following the example set in these islands of the abbey at Iona, might not such a shrine become the base for a joint Christian mission of peace to the whole world to lead mankind back from the brink of nuclear disaster?

Yours faithfully,
GORDON WILSON,
St John's Vicarage,
14 Dane Bank Avenue,
Crewe, Cheshire.

Lost for words

From Mrs Susan M. Lloyd

Sir, As editor of the new edition of *Rogers's Thesaurus*, I am disturbed at the misunderstanding which has arisen over so-called "sexist" terms.

There is, of course, no question of removing such well established words as "mankind" and "countryman" from the *Thesaurus*. What I have tried to do is make the key words throughout more up to date — "essay" becomes "attempt", for instance — and more general so that they reflect correctly the range of words in each paragraph. So, the group of words for country people is now headed "country-dweller" rather than "countryman", but it includes "countryman" and "countrywoman" (in their other senses, of course, these words appear elsewhere. "Country dweller" under "inhabitant" and "fellow countryman and woman" under "savage").

Certainly there is a tendency in modern English to make women more explicit in the language, rather than assume that they are included in such terms as "countryman" or "man in the street". I have therefore taken care to insert female or neutral equivalents where these exist: "master or mistress of the situation", "man or woman in the street", "spokesperson" and so on.

I hope this letter will allay any

court (this would certainly provide ample time for tempers to cool). If sovereignty were awarded to Argentina, we would repatriate the Islanders, and take any further steps necessary to comply with the court's judgment. If British sovereignty were confirmed we would continue to administer the islands, subject to any agreement to the contrary with Argentina at any time in the future.

I would find it reassuring if our Government confirmed its willingness to countenance such a peaceful and definitive settlement of the Falklands dispute. To do so could hardly diminish our international standing.

Yours sincerely,
DERRICK WYATT,
St Edmund's Hall, Oxford.

From Mrs Joyce Chaplin
Sir, In the scurry to force this country to hand over the Falkland Islands to Argentina, has the question of what Argentina might do with them been discussed?

Will any hand-over include a provision that the islands will not do so could hardly diminish our international standing. Yours faithfully,
JOYCE CHAPLIN,
Flat 1,
76 Shooters Hill Road, SE3.

From Mr Christopher Taylor
Sir, After their advice to athletics about competing in Moscow, and to cricketers playing in South Africa, what are the British Government going to say to footballers who are due to take part with Argentina in the World Cup?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR,
5 Park Crescent,
Cuddington,
Northwich,
Cheshire.
April 18.

From Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that ilk, QC

Sir, It may be that the only negotiations with Argentina will be very properly limited to the amount of reparations they are to pay the British taxpayer by way of civil damages for expenses incurred by the Royal Navy in establishing the rule of international law.

Otherwise, I hereby call for Scottish volunteers in honour of our Auld Alliance with France to recover the Channel Islands for the French Republic, and trust that we will hand over all North Sea oil to Norway as soon as they (or Denmark) redeem the Orkneys and Shetlands which we only hold in pawn for a royal dowry, unpaid since 1468 but doubtless redeemable now in paper money instead of gold.

Yours truly,
IAIN MONCREIFFE OF THAT ILK,
Easter Moncreiffe,
Perthshire.
April 19.

From the Reverend Anthony Thurstield

Sir, Your assertion in the leader "A fellow-Christian" (April 10) that the Anglican Church is the character of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain" should be rigorously challenged.

As one who has spent over 30 years in parishes in several English counties (I have served in five, well spread over central and southern England) I well know that there are substantial Roman Catholic communities of authentically English lineage, in all sections of society, not least among the professional classes and the Armed Forces. The number of RCs in the world of literature and the arts is, as is well known, very high.

Some writers in your columns, from exalted places, seem to jeer that the Anglican Church has and always has had, a sort of monopoly of fair play and tolerance, which is under threat from the moves towards Anglican-Roman accord. This I fear is not so. I find that parishioners are surprised when I tell them of the near-300 years of civic disabilities which the English state and Church imposed upon RCs until the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, for only then were they legally allowed to take service under the Crown, in municipal office or in Parliament.

Catholic apologists would be entitled to point this out. Perhaps they are too "English" and reluctant to do so. Are we in the Church of England too uncharitable to admit it?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY THURSTIELD,
Reydon Vicarage,
Southwold,
Suffolk.
April 10.

Chronic disorders

From Mr H. C. Seigal

Sir, Mrs Barbara Stalbow complains (April 15) about the pertinacity of sticky labels. Another of the irritations of modern living, and a more serious one, is the impenetrability of plastic wrappers.

Have you, Sir, ever experienced the frustration of trying to puncture the deceptively flimsy covering of a box of chocolates with no other instrument at hand than a blunt fingernail? Have you ever tickled the more serious problem of getting at a slice of supermarket cheese inside its transparent corset?

Yours faithfully,
H. C. SEIGAL,
17 Park Place Villas, W2.
April 16.

OBITUARY
BRIGADIER
FREDERICK
BASTON
Service with
the Royal
Artillery

Brigadier Frederick Baston, DL, died on April 19 at the age of 77. He was born on May 1923 and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1942. He served in India where he was mentioned in despatches. He was a member of the Royal Artillery Association and the Royal Artillery Club. He was a keen sportsman and was a member of the Royal Artillery Golf Club. He was a member of the Royal Artillery Association and the Royal Artillery Club. He was a keen sportsman and was a member of the Royal Artillery Golf Club.

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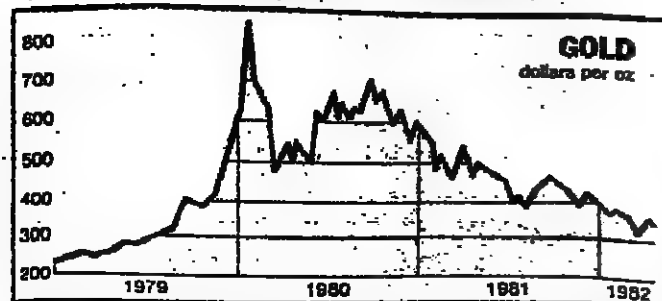
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BUSINESS NEWS

Gold follows crisis



Gold has been following the fortunes of the Falklands crisis in recent days. Monday's drop of \$14.5 to \$348 an ounce as hopes rose for a negotiated settlement was continued in New York where the price fell to \$341.50. But there was some recovery yesterday in London where it closed at \$342.75. The dollar fell below DM 2.40 for the first time since the Argentine invasion more than a fortnight ago, after signs that the Federal Reserve Board is not going to tighten credit policy.

Nat West resists bank tax

Strong resistance to further taxation of the banks was promised by National Westminster yesterday. Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, chairman, said at the annual meeting that the banks were convinced of the soundness of their case against further tax. "We will be ready with a robust defence of our position when the time comes," he said. The battle-ground more clearly, he said, Mr Leigh-Pemberton described the Chancellor of the Exchequer's comments in the Budget on the level of tax borne by the banks as unjustified and vague.

Staving off Soviet pianos

The EEC Commission has imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty of 478 European Currency Units (about £267) on upright pianos from the Soviet Union because they were competing unfairly with pianos made in Britain. The commission found that pianos from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany were squeezing British-made instruments out of the market for low-priced beginners' pianos, with the result that United Kingdom production fell to 13,000 in 1980 from 18,700 in 1979.

Electric truck from Leyland

Leyland Vehicles is today announcing plans for limited production of an electric version of its 7.5 tonne Terrier truck. The battery-powered vehicle, to be built in small numbers next year, will have a top speed of 40 mph and a working range of 50 miles. It has a payload capacity of 2.5 tonnes and will be aimed at local authorities.

● Nigeria is to curb imports, and raise domestic interest rates by 2 per cent. President Shagari also announced measures to combat rampant smuggling that has been undermining efforts to control foreign exchange outflows. He gave no details where the two per cent increase would be applied.

MARKET SUMMARY

Glaxo the star turn

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.6 up 4.5
FT 100 67.45 up 0.39
FT All share 321.42 up 4.21
Bargains 15,456

Hopes for peace continued to overshadow the Stock Market but early enthusiasm was tempered by the Prime Minister's comments on the House suggesting a settlement of the Falklands crisis looked no nearer. The FT index edged slightly off the best to close up 4.5 at 562.6.

GLAXO was again the star turn among leading equities, jumping 18p to 621p on recent figures and on the prospects for the Zantac drug. This is a rise of 66p since the results were announced two weeks ago.

The market is also extremely short of stock, a factor which helped Sainsbury to a 20p jump to 690p as a large buyer remained in the market.

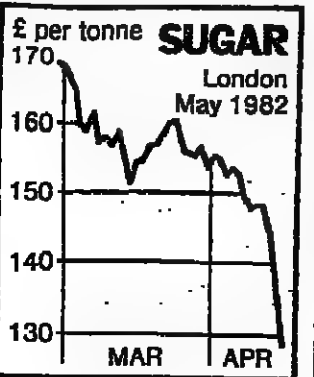
Business remained thin in the gilt market where there were further advances with long dated 14% firmers and shorts showing gains of 1/4.

Oil was a firm sector with BP putting on 6p to 302p, and Ultramar jumping 13p to 409p after bullish comments from Mr Arnold Lorbeer, chairman, in the group's annual report. This year will be one of consolidation says the board, but after capital expenditure of \$450m in the next two years the group will have the basis for continued growth and sharply increased earnings.

COMMODITIES

● Raw sugar futures closed earlier, between \$8.7 and \$3.8 per tonne below yesterday's close. Dealers said prices drifted slightly lower from midday levels, attracting some support at lower levels, but not enough to counter the bearish sentiment. Most-traded May ended at \$129.0, above its new contract low of \$128.5.

In the morning reports of further producer selling, particularly by Thailand, had prompted further liquidation.



MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates were a little easier where changed. The Bank bought £305m of bills in response to a forecast shortage of £300m. Domestic rates: 3 month 13 1/4-13 1/2, 3 month interbank 13 1/4-13 1/2, 3 month dollar 14 1/4-15 1/4, 3 month DM 8 1/4-8 1/2, 3 month Fr F 22 1/2-22.

Concert party

Government moves to make concert party share deals illegal are expected within two weeks. Orders making it a criminal offence for investors to buy shares separately with the intention of using them as one holding later will be among a number of new measures.

Monopolies post

Sir Alan Neale, a former senior civil servant who has been a part-time member of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission since last May, has been appointed one of its three part-time deputy chairmen in succession to Sir Max Brown. Sir Alan was formerly Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and is an expert on United States anti-trust law.

Concert party

£10m loss a blow to private docks plan

The Government's privatisation plans suffered a severe blow yesterday when the British Transport Docks Board, due for a 49 per cent public flotation later this year, reported a £10.3m pre-tax loss for 1981 over £200m down on 1980's £11.5m profit.

After a decade of steady profits—around £30m a year for four years to 1979—the board has become something of a privatizer's pet, and the setback must raise fears of either postponing the flotation or of accusations of another "bargain basement" sale of public assets at the wrong time.

The Dept of Transport where Mr David Howell is an enthusiastic privatizer, said yesterday, "The Government is still planning on privatization this year."

And Sir Humphrey Browne, retiring at 71 this month after 10 years in the chair, put a brave face on it at a London press conference. Privatization would still go ahead, he said, but he declared, and need not be at a bargain terms which he would "strongly disapprove of."

While he agreed that last year's results "looked awful", he was entirely due to special circumstances, and the board was heading for a profit again this year after a 25 per cent rise in traffic and 20 per cent in revenue in the first quarter.

Flotation depended on a company's long-term performance rather than one bed year, Sir Humphrey said, and few companies could match the board's profit record over the past decade.

While last year's results were not helpful and might have put the timetable back, they were "not a setback overall for privatization," he said.

The special circumstances which upset results were an estimated £15m loss because of industrial action at Southampton which diverted big container ships for much of the year, a £5m bill for severance pay to non-docker staff, a £5m bill for delays by the government in approving new severance pay to dockers, and subsidized competition from London, Liverpool, and Bristol.

Without these, Sir Humphrey claimed, 1981 could have been quite good despite the recession. He foresaw a 20 per cent rise in revenue, while declining to specify the year in which this might happen.

Paris talks aim to ease trade tension

From Peter Norman, Brussels, April 20

Officials from the European Community, the United States, Japan and Canada will hold a top-level meeting next month in Paris in an attempt to defuse growing tensions between the world's main trading blocks.

The meeting, which is planned for May 12 and 13 will be held along the same lines as the first informal quadripartite meeting this year at Key Biscayne, United States in January.

The EEC will be represented by Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, the EEC Commissioner for External Affairs and Sir Roy Denman, the department's Director General. The United States will be represented by Mr William Brock, the United States Trade Representative. Mr Shintaro Abe, the Minister for International Trade and Industry, will attend for Japan and Canada's representative will be Mr Ed Lumley, Secretary of State for Trade.

EEC officials describe the meeting as an exercise to "clear the air" between the four trading blocks. But it will take place at a time of growing trade tension that threatens to upset the atmosphere at this year's Western economic summit at Versailles in June.

The talks can be expected to cover a whole range of trading issues from the problems created by Japan's large and growing trade surplus with the EEC and the United States, through to specific complaints such as the anti-dumping brought by American steel producers against their European competitors and the growing hostility shown by the United States to the EEC's subsidized agricultural exports.

One result of the Key Biscayne meeting was an agreement that disputes between the trading blocks should be handled as far as possible in the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

However, some officials now fear that the GATT machinery may be overtaken by a recent flood of complaints.

In the last few months, the EEC has broken new ground by taking Japan to GATT under Article 23 of the treaty in an attempt to get the government in Tokyo to open up the Japanese market to more foreign goods.

The United States is also pursuing complaints against the EEC for its subsidized exports of food products such as wheat, flour, sugar, poultry and pasta.

Over the last month the tension in transatlantic trading relations has increased dramatically. The EEC Commission is proposing to negotiate in GATT a limit to the amount of corn gluten feed that the United States can sell to the European community free of import duty.

The Commission's proposal on imports of the cereal substitute has provoked hostile reaction in the United States.

The corn gluten proposal, which involves United States sales to Europe worth about \$500m (about £282m) last year, is seen by the Americans as an attack on a long-established tariff-free market and as an attempt by the Commission to abuse the liberal intentions of the GATT treaty in a way that was not envisaged at Key Biscayne.

US rules out early Soviet grain deal

Mr William Brock said yesterday that the Reagan Administration was not ready to discuss another long-term grain agreement with the Soviet Union during negotiations in Paris next month with a high-level team of Russian trade specialists (Bailey Morris, in Washington, writes). The Administration has not changed its position on a long-term agreement to meet the demands of angry United States farmers, he added.

BL 'not breaking EEC rules'

By Peter Waymark

BL yesterday rejected a charge that it was breaking European Community agreement over the level of British content in the Triumph Acclaim car, which is based on a Japanese Honda design.

Mr Vittorio Ghidella, managing director of Fiat, claimed that the BL-Honda collaboration on the Acclaim was in breach of an EEC demand that there should be 80 per cent local content in such ventures.

BL said: "This is nonsense. There is no such regulation. The only figure we know of is 50 per cent local content requirement. It seems Mr Ghidella has got his facts confused."

BL also disputed Mr Ghidella's assertion that the British content of the Acclaim was only 50 per cent. It was 70 per cent, including the cost of labour at Cowley, is 70 per cent, the company said.

BL went on: "The Acclaim is of EEC origin according to all relevant Community regulations and, in fact, this has been accepted by the Italian authorities for type approval purposes."

Mr Ghidella, who was speaking at the Turin Motor Show, accused the Japanese of using back door methods of increasing their foothold in Europe, now that direct imports to several countries were limited by quota or voluntary agreement.

"We do not feel that the collaboration between BL and Honda is fair and it is one of the cases we are most concerned about," he said.

Triumph Acclaim: content disputed

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Mr Ghidella, who was speaking at the Turin Motor Show, accused the Japanese of using back door methods of increasing their foothold in Europe, now that direct imports to several countries were limited by quota or voluntary agreement.

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Lord Grade: keeps US links

Lord Grade finally bows out at ACC

By Philip Robinson

Lord Grade, ousted as chairman of Associated Communications Corporation three months ago by Mr Robert Holmes a Court, resigned as a director of the company last night.

But he remains executive deputy chairman of ITC Entertainment Inc, ACC's American subsidiary, the main source of his £200,000 a year salary. Further news of his future plans is expected next week.

His departure was announced by ACC late last night in a boardroom shake-up which leaves only one of the nine directors shown in the last accounts on the main board and creates a new executive board for day-to-day management which includes two ACC directors and two of the company's executives.

The reshuffle comes after the Australian financier's TWV Enterprises gained control of ACC with a two-tier offer which values the company at £50m. His takeover went unconditional four days ago with 90.01 per cent of the non-voting shares and 88.76 per cent of the voting shares.

Mr Holmes a Court remains chairman of both the main and executive boards, but is standing down as chief executive, a post which will be abolished. Instead Mr Bert Reuter, who has been running ACC in the absence of Mr Holmes a Court, is appointed group managing director and sits on the main board with Lord Windlesham, and the three non-executive directors, Sir Michael Chapman, Mr George Preston, and Mr Michael Edwards QC.

Mr Reuter said: "Mr Holmes a Court tells me that those members of the staff that prevented me entering had misunderstood his instructions. It was not non-voting shareholders who were to be barred from the meeting but the press." Asked if it was satisfied with that explanation he said: "I don't want to comment."

Exchange takes on another watchdog

By Our Financial Staff

Mr John Young, aged 44, a senior partner of stockbrokers Simon & Coates is to resign from his firm and take up the new position of Director of Policy and Planning at the Stock Exchange next month.

He will be the second stockbroker to swap a partnership for a staff job with the Exchange's administration in six months. The last was Mr Robert Wilkinson who became the Exchange's Inspector keeping a watch on firms' accounts and business conduct, last November.

"I am delighted, I think my long experience as a working stockbroker will help in the new job. It was a personal decision, but I would like to be of service to the Stock Exchange as a whole," Mr Young said.

Mr Young, a member of the ruling stock exchange council for the past four years, is chairman of the quotations Committee and sits on the Property and Finance and the Appeal Committees. He has been with Simon and Coates for 21 years and a partner for the past 17. Mr Young will resign from both his firm and the council before taking his new appointment on May 25.

He will report directly to Mr Jeffrey Knight who was appointed Stock Exchange chief executive two months ago on the resignation of Mr Robert Fell.

His area or responsibility will cover the policy of the membership and quotations department, planning and relations with external institutions at home and abroad.

NEDO call for change in industry

By Edward Townsend

Mr Geoffrey Chandler, director general of the National Economic Development Office, yesterday called for change "across the whole spectrum of society" to raise Britain in the world industrial league.

Britain, he said, had performed worse than any of the country's major industrial competitors since the war. "This is regardless of the political party in power. There has been a steady movement to the bottom of the industrial league."

Mr Chandler, recently reappointed for a further year to the top job at NEDO, has often been critical of both sides of industry and of government and civil servants for the lack of industrial consensus. As director of the nation's major tripartite economic forum, he has championed the cause of long-term industrial strategy and attacked what he has described as the dogma and ignorance that have exacerbated Britain's industrial problems.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union in Blackpool, he listed the five forces in society that were not playing their rightful role — shareholders, non-executive directors, employees, trade unions and government.

More employee involvement was needed, until workers had the resources of analysis and skill to match those of management, he believed their part in society would not be as creative and as helpful to change as it ought to be.

Ash & Lacy remains strong

Despite the deep recession, we achieved a profit before taxation of £2.35 million. Thus we succeeded in holding our profit at 89% of the record level achieved in 1980, with a big improvement in the second half of the year. Our balance sheet remains strong.

	1981	1980	1979
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Sales	25,237	27,861	26,679
Profit before tax	2,349	2,643	2,585
Earnings per share	40.5p	56.4p	43.7p
Dividends	14.0p	12.5p	11.5p

SMETHWICK WARLEY WEST MIDLANDS

Lloyd's denies writing new Argentine Insurance Sanction-busting report rejected

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Anthony Berins

Lloyd's, the London insurance market, denied being party to sanctions-busting yesterday as confusion persisted over the involvement of British insurance interests with Argentina since government sanctions were imposed on April 3 after the Falklands invasion. There has been speculation that British companies have continued to negotiate on new business for Argentina.

This came after allegations in Parliament yesterday by Mr Christopher Price (Labour, Lewisham West) that members of Lloyd's syndicates had given further insurance cover for the Argentine airlines and were arranging the renewal of the policy which expires on May 1.

But Lloyd's yesterday rebuffed these claims. No policy on Argentine business had been signed since April 2 and any new policies had been shelved since that date, a spokesman said.

Mr Peter Rees, the Trade Minister, is expected to reply today to a priority written question concerning British involvement in insurance for Argentina, which has been tabled by Mr Price.

Mr Tim Brennan, deputy chairman of Lloyd's, gave an assurance to the Department of Trade yesterday that the renewal of the reinsurance for Aerolineas Argentinas, was not being handled in London. Lloyd's officials were also in touch with insurance brokers yesterday to ensure adherence to the market's policy on Argentine business.

On April 14, Lloyd's issued a notice making clear that no Lloyd's brokers or underwriters should be arranging new business with Argentina. This came after the Bank of England's guidelines on the sanctions.

Although no premiums are being received from Argentina and any claims have to be paid into a special holding account at the Bank of England, the Department of Trade confirmed yesterday that it was not illegal to do business with Argentina if no claims were met.

However, there has been unconfirmed speculation that some British companies were attempting to circumvent restrictions by channelling business through Switzerland.

Sedgwick Group, which with Frank B. Hall, the United States insurance broker, has in the past handled reinsurance of Aerolineas Argentinas for the

Argentine insurance monopoly under (Instituto Nacional de Reaseguros) finally denied on Monday that it is now handling the renewal of this business.

In New York this week, Mr Gordon Colbidge, vice-president of Frank B. Hall, said that it was his understanding that Frank B. Hall was now exclusive broker for the business and was trying to place it all.

The reinsurance for Aerolineas Argentinas is believed to be highly profitable with \$8 to \$10 (£

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL



Trade with S. America to increase

Congressman Bill Brock said the United States is intent on increasing trade with South America, when he met reporters in Washington to discuss a trip last week to Argentina, Brazil and Peru. He emphasized that the Falklands crisis, in terms of trade, was not raised.

There have been press reports that the United States might consider trade or other economic sanctions against Argentina, but Mr Brock declined to discuss the reports because of delicate negotiations.

W Germany

West Germany's 1983 gross national product (GNP) will rise 3 per cent in real, or price adjusted terms, from 1982, Dr Otto Lambrecht, Economics Minister, predicted at the opening of the Hannover Industrial Fair last night.

China

Peking has agreed to increase trade with the Soviet Union by 43 per cent this year, but this involves further planned reduction of capital goods purchases, while raw material imports from Moscow will rise, western economists said here today. The agreement set the value of bilateral trade at \$300m (£18.3m) 43 per cent up on the previous year but far below the 1979 record of \$503.3m.

Turkey

Turkey's foreign debt stood at \$15,090m (£8,672m) in April, the Ankara bank announced in central bank yesterday. Only \$2,100m of the debt is short-term representing an improvement over 1978-79, when short-term foreign debts which came to as much as half of its total foreign obligations.

RECORD START TO SECOND HUNDRED YEARS!

- 1981 RESULTS
- New Annual Premiums up by 16%
 - New Single Premiums up by 75%
 - Protected Growth Declared Rate up to 12.5%
 - Terminal Bonus increased
 - Assets now exceed £400 Million

- NEW DEVELOPMENTS
- First Annual Declaration of Bonus
 - MORTGAGE PLAN - flexible house purchase package
 - SOVEREIGN PLAN - pension plan based on Protected Growth
 - Establishment of special facilities for funds from banks and building societies

- INVESTMENT
- £60m of new money invested - 32% into gilts, 19% in property, 40% in equities, 9% in cash.

Scottish Life

The Scottish Life Assurance Company
18 St Andrew Square
Edinburgh EH2 1YE
Tel: 031 225 2211

The Queen's Awards

Selling technology to Japan

A firm which became the first British Company to export micro-computer software to the Japanese is among the 110 winners of this year's Queen's Awards for export and technology achievement. Awards were made to 91 firms for export achievement and 19 for technological advances. Although the total of 110 was one more than last year, the number of applications received for the awards was down from more than 1200 to only 1079, the lowest since the 1974 oil crisis. The present recession has taken its toll of the number of companies applying for awards in the export sector with only 818 firms having been worthy of consideration this year.

One of the significant features of this year's awards is the number of small companies recognized for their achievements with about 45 per cent of winning firms employing less than 50 people. A typical example of the effectiveness of small companies is Micro Focus, a London-based software firm, which has been established for less than six years. Last year it became the first software company to win an award for a technological breakthrough. This time its award is for export achievement with almost three quarters of the firm's turnover earned abroad. It

recently became the first British company to export micro-computer software to the Japanese.

An even smaller firm, with a team of only six, has been similarly honoured for its efforts in the production and export of military pyrotechnics, and other defence equipment. Turnover at Richard Unwin International has grown from less than £150,000 in 1979 to around £2.5m last year. Among its products are simulation systems to reproduce rifle and machine gun fire; mortar, grenade and shell bursts and larger scale explosions.

Another successful small firm is the Clwyd based Tiger Tim products which has won an award for export achievement through the sale of kerosene firelighters to the Middle East, Europe and even the Southern Pacific.

This year one company has received a double award. The Actuation Division of Lucas Aerospace has gained an award for its sales of hydraulic and pneumatic actuation systems used in aircraft secondary flying controls, for which it also won an award last year. At the same time the division wins a technology award for its innovative work in gas turbine engine re-heat nozzle and thrust reverse actuation systems. This

technology has contributed greatly to aircraft safety through lower fire risk and engine weight.

This year the export awards recognise some of the difficulties British companies have encountered. Seldom seen among the list of export winners are hotel groups, but one such is Comfort Hotels International which operates 27 hotels in Britain and overseas.

The awards also recognize the achievements of the independent Holborn Law Tutors, a college which provides full time degree and professional training for British and overseas students. The college has won the award for the export of its services to some 15 countries mainly in SE Asia and Africa. Merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell win an award, for the second time. It exports its services to most parts of the world, in particular to North America, South-east Asia, South America and the communist countries.

The judges, under the chairmanship of Sir Douglas Wass, joint head of the Home Civil Service, were generally impressed with the overall standard of entries. They believed it was the recession rather than any lack of interest which kept entries at a low level this year. They stressed that the technology awards are made, not for inventions, but for products with a definite market and a proven record.



To be or not to be... actor John Cleese stars in an industrial training film made by his company, Video Arts. A series of such films produced by the company has won a Queen's Award

OPERATIONAL ALTERNATIVES

1. Suffering.
2. Taking arms.

Division of Smiths Industries Aerospace and Defence Systems; Stewart Wiles, Somerset; T. I. Chesterfield; Tiger Tim Products; Richard Unwin International; V. G. Powders; Pirali General; Portals Holdings; The France Division of PFF International; Quest Automation Systems; The R H P Precision Division of R H P Bearings; The Avionics Division of Racal-Decca Navigator; Racal Security; Rapier; Rodland Automation; Roy Manufacturing Co (Fashion); Ruston Gas Turbines; Shackleton Engineering; Simon Food Engineers; The United Kingdom Overseas Group of Smith Kline & French Laboratories; The Cheltenham

For Technology The "Slimline" division of ARC Concrete, Bristol - for research and development of technology in precast concrete. City Technology, London - for technological innovation in the development of oxygen sensors. Colas Cranes, Sunderland - for technological innovation in telescopic boom design. L1 Division-Battlefield Sensors Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, Great Malvern - this award goes jointly to L1

Division-Battlefield Sensors Royal Signals and Radar Establishment and Plessey Electronics and Microwave for innovation in the research and development of pyroelectric infra-red detectors. Edwards of Enfield, Middlesex - for advancing technology in the automatic handling of non-ferrous metals extruded by hydraulic presses up to 7000 tons. The Scottish Group of Ferranti, Ferry Road, Edinburgh - for the development of an production of a Combined Map and Electronic Display (COMED) for use in military aircraft.

Isotron, High Wycombe - for development and production of its 8000 series testing machines used for studying the mechanical properties of materials, components and structures.

Laser-Scan Laboratories, Cambridge - for innovation in the design and manufacture of laser-based computer peripherals and systems.

The Actuation Division of Lucas Aerospace, Wolverhampton - for technological innovation in gas turbine engine re-heat nozzle and thrust reverse actuation systems.

May and Baker, Dagenham - for technological innovation in the development and production of "FLAGYL" (metronidazole).

The Mining Research and Development Establishment of the National Coal Board, Burton-upon-Trent - awarded jointly to the Mining Research and Development Establishment and Salford Electrical Instruments for the development and practical application of a natural gamma radiation detector.

Neotronics, Bishop's Cleeve - for the development and production of a fuel efficiency monitor which speedily analyses essential information on boiler or furnace combustion efficiency.

Geo-Offshore Systems, Great Yarmouth - for its development and production of one man tethered submersibles.

Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge - for innovation in breeding the nematode-resistant main-crop potato variety, Maris Piper.

Recal-Redac, Tewkesbury - for innovation in the application of advanced micro-processor technology in the production of a portable desktop computer aided design machine.

The Derby Engineering Function of Rolls-Royce Derby - in recognition of an outstanding contribution to fuel efficiency in the operation of turbofan aircraft engines.

TSL Thermal Syndicate, Wallaseid - for technological innovation in the manufacture of translucent fused silica tubing.

Provision for taxation was £196,000 against £273,000 in 1980. After a deduction of £9,000 for minorities, £711,000 was attributable to shareholders against £701,000 last time.

Earnings per share before deduction of extraordinary items of £1.08m were 9.02p against 8.88p last year. The extraordinary items were £500,000 charged as losses attributable on closure of William Denby and £488,000 as a result of other losses and rationalization costs.

WILLIAM LOW £3.2m cash call

William Low, the Dundee-based supermarket chain which last year closed its troubled fast food subsidiary, MacTatties, is calling on shareholders for £3.2m.

With the rights issue, at 145p a share, comes a pretax profits forecast for the year to September of not less than £2.2m compared with £1.8m earned on the previous year. This brings Low closer to its former growth when in 1979 it made £2.4m before tax.

The cash call, on one for three basis, is a short term measure to bolster the effect of the group's interest charges and reduce borrowings but will add to its capital base. Low's shares dipped to 198p.

Low, Scotland's largest independent supermarket retailer, reports half-time profits ahead at £1.05m in the six months to March compared with £835,756. Sales from continuing activities rose to £63.16m against £57m last time.

The half-time dividend is held at 3p gross.

At the operating level profits were £1.47m, against £1m, but losses from the discontinued fast food business were down at £109,376 compared with £196,180. Interest charges were substantially up at £313,900 from £25,000.

The full year improvement in profits is expected to be made with only a small contribution from recent development projects but this will grow over the next few years. On this basis the directors are predicting a final dividend up at 8.4p gross - from 7.7p - making a total of 11.4p gross.

USM listing

Continental Microwave (Holdings), a leading manufacturer of radio frequency electronic systems, used extensively in television and defence equipment, is set to come to the Unlisted Securities Market following the placing by brokers Stock Beech of 248,000 25p ordinary shares at 260p.

This represents 24 per cent of the total issued share capital, giving the group a market capitalisation of £2.67m. Of the shares being placed, 180,000 are being sold by existing shareholders, with 68,000 new shares, raising a net £110,000 of new capital. Dealings on the USM are due to begin on April 28.

UNITED PARCELS

Road transport group United Parcels, formerly United Carriers, has reported record profits for the year to January 30. Pretax profits rose from £5.04m to £6.05m, on turnover up from £32.5m to £40.19m. The board, led by chairman Mr Graham Millard, has declared a final dividend of 3.3p, making a total payment of 4.5p. This is unchanged from 1981.

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130	100	Asa Brit Ind CULS	129	+1	10.0	7.8	—	—	—
75	62	Airspan Group	73	—	4.7	6.4	11.6	16.0	16.0
51	33	Armstrong & Rhodes	44	—	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3	8.3
205	187	Bardon Hill	199	+1	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8	11.8
107	100	CCL 11%, Conv Pref	107	+1	15.7	14.7	—	—	—
104	61	Deborah Services	62	—	6.0	9.7	3.1	5.8	5.8
131	97	Frank Horsell	127	+1	6.4	5.0	11.4	23.5	23.5
83	39	Frederick Parker	75	+1	6.4	8.5	3.8	7.5	7.5
76	46	George Blair	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind Prec Castings	95	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4	10.4
109	100	Isis Conv Pref	108	—	15.7	14.5	—	—	—
113	94	Jackman Group	97	+1	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9	6.9
130	108	James Burroughs	113	—	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4	10.4
334	240	Robert Jennings	240	—	31.3	13.0	3.3	8.5	8.5
64	51	Scrutons "A"	64	—	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1	9.1
222	159	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	9.5
15	10	Twinkl Ord	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinkl 15% ULS	80	—	15.0	18.8	—	—	—
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	7.6
103	73	Walter Alexander	79	—	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.2	9.2
263	212	W. S. Yeates	231	+1	14.5	6.3	6.0	12.1	12.1

* 7 day deposits of sums of £10,000 to £50,000 at 11% £50,000 and over 11.4%

Business Editor

Bed, breakfast and a hangover

The finance bill's proposals on indexation of capital gains tax (CGT) are developing into classic example of the gulf between theoretical correctness and practical disaster.

Acting with the best of fiscal intentions, the Chancellor wants to end the injustice of charging paper gains to capital gains tax by indexing their measurement to the rate of inflation. But this proposal has caused widespread anxiety: first, over how it affects the popular investment practice of "bed and breakfasting", and second, the complications it causes for future calculations of the tax.

Bed and breakfasting is a means of avoiding or limiting CGT through buying and selling shares in the same stock exchange account. As such, and in the

the gut reaction is that if CGT costs more to calculate and raises less revenue, why not scrap it? The Revenue's argument is that the combination of indexation and raising the exemption limit from £3,000 to £5,000 will mean it can administer the tax with fewer staff.

This does not absolve the Government from the confusion it has caused. Sources close to the Treasury have blamed the confusion on poor management at the Finance Bill planning stage. Now it is up to the legislators to clarify the situation.

Exports

More advice

Small firms may be financially hard-pressed at the moment, but there is no shortage of well-intentioned assistance from both the Government and private sectors. Following the Business Opportunities Programme and industry's drive to increase the number of non-executive directors on company boards, there is now the establishment of the Export and Overseas Trade Advisory Panel (EOTAP).

The company, formed under the auspices of the Institute of Export, intends to provide a new style of advice to management seeking to develop profitable business overseas. For a payment of £75 a day plus expenses, companies will be able to call upon the knowledge and advice of each of the panel's 33 members who include five former ambassadors, six former consuls general, and various former commercial counsellors, High Commissioners, export consultants and industrialists.

According to Mr Harold Yates, vice chairman of the institute's council and chairman of the new company, the panel hopes to bridge the gap between potential exporters - and existing exporters who may have specific problems - and the services that are available in Government departments and organizations like the British Overseas Trade Board (BOTB).

The formation of the panel, however, says as much about the apparent inaccessibility of the mass of useful commercial information stored in Whitehall as it does about the lack of export knowledge on the part of the small businessman.



Sir Geoffrey Howe... well intentioned

current phase of the Inland Revenue's assault on tax avoidance, severely restricting it comes as no surprise. Unfortunately, it is emerging that this measure is simply a by-product of the proposal to index CGT and end the pooling arrangements for calculating the tax.

Stockbrokers admit that the arrangement was a source of revenue for them, but expressing irritation at how the restrictions have been introduced. Inland Revenue officials deny there was any specific intention to strike at bed and breakfasting. Instead, they say, indexation will make their calculation of CGT liabilities more complex.

This is the rub, however, for stockbrokers who service private clients. The increased complexity of CGT means computer programmes will have to be rewritten, in most cases at considerable expense. There is strong support for official stock exchange representations to the Government.

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83	39	Frederick Parker	75	+1	6.4	8.5	3.8	7.5	7.5
76	46	George Blair	54	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind Prec Castings	95	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4	10.4
109	100	Isis Conv Pref	108	—	15.7	14.5	—	—	—
113	94	Jackman Group	97	+1	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9	6.9
130	108	James Burroughs	113	—	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4	10.4
334	240	Robert Jennings	240	—	31.3	13.0	3.3	8.5	8.5
64	51	Scrutons "A"	64	—	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1	9.1
222	159	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	9.5
15	10	Twinkl Ord	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinkl 15% ULS	80	—	15.0	18.8	—	—	—
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	7.6
103	73	Walter Alexander	79	—	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.2	9.2
263	212	W. S. Yeates	231	+1	14.5	6.3	6.0	12.1	12.1

* 7 day deposits of sums of £10,000 to £50,000 at 11% £50,000 and over 11.4%

BOUSTEAD

Optimism after first quarter

Boustead, the commodity trading and engineering group, reports that first quarter trading this year shows no definite upturn but it detects some signs of improvement.

But for the last year to December pretax profits tumbled to £1.42m from £2.1m. Sales in the period rose 16 per cent to £44.44m. The final dividend has been held unchanged at 1.78p gross and the group's shares moved a 1p up to 61p.

Operating profits were down at £1.66m, compared with £2.88m, but interest charges were up at £1m against £454,000. Investment profits were nearly doubled at £525,000. Associated companies profits were £303,000, compared with a loss last time of £262,000.

Mr Alan Charton, chairman, says results reflect the worldwide recession. In the United Kingdom, he adds, industrial operations were badly hit in the first half but recovered in the latter six months. Boustead's specialist manufacturer, King Trailers, benefited particularly with more than doubled profits.

The group's Singapore companies, notably the trading and shipping subsidiaries, achieved satisfactory results despite increased competition. But the Boustead Singapore Group saw profits down 31 per cent, mainly due to poor trading at the Australian subsidiary.

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\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

7.05 Open University: Juggling with Physics. 7.30 Exploring Frequency Space. 7.55 Closedown. 12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Whitmore and Maura Stuart. The weather prospects from Michael Fish. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report and a news summary with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Included this lunchtime is a cookery spot just Desserts in which cookery expert Michael Smith regales us with mouthwatering recipes for sweets. 1.45 Over the Moon. A See-Saw programme for the very young, presented by Sam Dale (1). 2.00 Closedown. 2.15 Racing from Cheltenham. Julian Wilson introduces the Sean Graham George Duffield Handicap Hurdle (2.30); the Sean Graham Handicap Steeplechase (3.05); and the Sean Graham Hurdle (3.40). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan and Richard Pagan. 3.55 Regional news (not London).

BBC 2

8.40 Open University: Maths Functions. 7.05 Argument on Television. 2.30 Functions and Graphs. 7.55 Closedown. 10.30 Closedown. 10.45 Closedown. 11.00 Play School.

Alan Badel: BBC 2 9.30pm.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 Caravan: Barney Google and Snuffy Smith in Judgment for President. 9.40 The World We Live In. A history of the horse. 10.05 The History Makers: Elizabeth the First. 10.30 Ennabul. 11.25 Paint Along with Nancy. Landscapes (1). 11.55 The Bubbles (1). 12.00 The Munch Bunch. Adventures of animated vegetables. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. 12.30 Play It Again, Ian Carmichael chooses clips from some of his favourite films. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Crown Court. Continuing the case of the young man accused of assaulting his former schoolmaster. 2.00 After Noon Plus. Mary Parkinson investigates cotton clothes. When something's in. 2.25 Racing from Epsom. Brough Scott introduces the Warren Stakes (2.30); the City and Suburban Handicap (3.05); and the Great Surrey Handicap (3.35) 3.50 Definition (7).

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 6.40 Prayer for the Day. 6.50 Today's News. 7.30 News Headlines. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.30 News Headlines. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 8.57 Weather and Travel. 9.00 News. 9.05 Midweek: Henry Kelly. 10.00 News. 10.05 Gardeners' Question Time. 10.15 News. 10.20 Daily Service. 10.25 Morning Story: "Alice Buchan and the Midst of Human Affairs" by Fred Unwin. 11.00 News. 11.05 Baker's Dozen. Richard Baker with records. 12.00 News. 12.05 You and Yours. 12.27 The Other Side of Silence. The novel by Ted Atkinson dramatized in eight parts (2) "A Meeting in Red Square". 12.50 News. 1.00 The World at One. 1.10 The Archers. 1.20 News. 1.30 Woman's Hour. 1.40 News and Travel. 1.50 "Stills Thou Never Marry" by Alan Melville. 2.47 Time for Verse. George Bernard Shaw's poem about animals. 4.00 News. 4.05 News of the Table with Yves Leduc. 4.10 The Right to Roam. The history of the campaign for walkers to gain access to the countryside, and the views of some present-day campaigners. 4.20 News. 4.30 "Z for Zachariah" by Robert O'Brien (7). 5.00 PM. 5.05 News and Freshener. 6.00 News and Financial Report. 6.30 Frank Muir Goes into Town. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.50 News. 7.55 The Week's Highlights; records. 10.00 News. 10.05 Concert: Haydn, Weber, Bartok.

7.45 A World in Common (new series). The first of eight documentary programmes examining the relationships between the richer and the poorer countries of the world. 8.15 Voices in Harmony. Marion Forster presents a showcase for amateur choirs. 8.45 Edward Hoover - Fallen Idol. Anthony Howard presents a critical profile of the man who the FBI, who died 10 years ago. 9.30 Kaleidoscope presented by Paul Vaughan. The programme includes a review of the London Silver 1680-1780 exhibition at the Museum of London which traces the styles of three generations of the Courtland family of goldsmiths; and Terry Hand's new production of Much Ado About Nothing for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford. 9.50 News. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.30 Detective. A story of crime and detection in London. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "The Great Brown-Faced Motor" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00 News. ENGLAND: VHF - with 11 above except as follows: 6.25-6.30 am Weather and Travel. 10.30-10.45 Knockdown Gin-gar. Roll Harris opens the door to children on holiday. 1.55-2.00 pm Programme News. 3.50-4.55 PM (continued). 11.00 Study on 4. 11.30-12.00 am Open University.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.05 My Midweek Record requests: Weber, Beethoven, Brahms. 8.00 News. 8.05 My Midweek Choice (continued). Grady (mon). 8.15 News. 8.20 News. 8.25 The Week's Highlights; records. 10.00 News. 10.05 Concert: Haydn, Weber, Bartok.

11.10 Apollo's Banquet Chamber music. Play. Schubert. 12.05 Schubert and Salinen BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. 1.00 News. 1.05 Concert Hall Two Piano recital: Ravel, Rachmaninov. 2.00 Music Weekly. 2.50 French Songs recital: Mahler, Debussy. 3.30 Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra. Concert: Corelli, Hindemith, records. 4.00 News. 4.05 News. 4.10 News from Wakefield Cathedral. 4.55 News. 5.00 Mr Slater in Pleasure. 7.00 News. 7.05 Mind and Culture. Professor Edward Wilson argues his theory in which genetic heritage and cultural behaviour are inextricably linked with three eminent academics. Chaired by John Mollard. 8.00 Music of Eight Decades. Concert direct from the Royal Festival Hall, London. Part 1: Stravinsky, Berg. 8.55 The Living Poet. Edward Thomas. A selection of his poetry. 9.25 Concert Part 2: News. 9.30 Mr Slater in Pleasure. Short story by Leonard Sciacca. 10.30 The Apotheosis of Lully. Frances Cooper; record. 11.00 News. 11.05 British Conductors Granger. 11.15 News. 11.20 News. 11.25 News. 11.30 News. 11.35 News. 11.40 News. 11.45 News. 11.50 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.10 News. 12.15 News. 12.20 News. 12.25 News. 12.30 News. 12.35 News. 12.40 News. 12.45 News. 12.50 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.05 News. 1.10 News. 1.15 News. 1.20 News. 1.25 News. 1.30 News. 1.35 News. 1.40 News. 1.45 News. 1.50 News. 1.55 News. 2.00 News. 2.05 News. 2.10 News. 2.15 News. 2.20 News. 2.25 News. 2.30 News. 2.35 News. 2.40 News. 2.45 News. 2.50 News. 2.55 News. 3.00 News. 3.05 News. 3.10 News. 3.15 News. 3.20 News. 3.25 News. 3.30 News. 3.35 News. 3.40 News. 3.45 News. 3.50 News. 3.55 News. 4.00 News. 4.05 News. 4.10 News. 4.15 News. 4.20 News. 4.25 News. 4.30 News. 4.35 News. 4.40 News. 4.45 News. 4.50 News. 4.55 News. 5.00 News. 5.05 News. 5.10 News. 5.15 News. 5.20 News. 5.25 News. 5.30 News. 5.35 News. 5.40 News. 5.45 News. 5.50 News. 5.55 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 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Frank Johnson in the Commons

Jenkins rolls a jowl at the Falklands

Still no sign of the eventual outcome in the South Atlantic, but there was some movement yesterday on the home front. It took the form of Mr Roy Jenkins.

The movement was initially confined to those rather distinguished jowls of his. They began to roll about the moment Mrs Thatcher arrived for Prime Minister's question time. While she answered other Members, the rest of Mr Jenkins began to move importantly in his seat below the gangway facing her.

He consulted some notes. He advanced to the edge of his seat with some deliberation. It was clear that he was going to put a question. This was in itself an event of a certain significance. Nothing had been heard from him in this crisis. Since it arose, he had all but disappeared from the public gaze.

This absence was all the more marked because in the days immediately before the Argentine action he was the subject of all our attention. He had won Hillhead. He had taken his seat. He has put a notably incompressible, but no doubt distinguished, maiden question to the Prime Minister about micro-chips. All things seemed possible for him. But within days Dr David Owen had seized the SDP controls and was roaring away on the subject of submarines, frigates, and vertical take-off.

Dr Owen is at home with such matters. Mr Jenkins is not. Like Switzerland, he is prosperous, comfortable, civilized and almost entirely landlocked. His only previous contact with the high seas has been in various good fish restaurants.

Registered as a statesman

Instead of the vertical, he prefers the horizontal take-off. The unburied rise to a shopping precinct after an afternoon nap at a by-election.

In addition to all these qualifications for the times in which we at present live, one suspects that he is almost certainly a Carringtonian at heart: a man of the world who believes that the Falklands

are a far away country of which we now know too much. So it is an appalling situation in which he finds himself so soon after his triumphant return. None the less, being officially registered as a statesman, he just had to put up a show sooner or later. So yesterday he rose.

There was a murmur of expectation on both sides of the House, much of it slightly ironic. They all knew that Mr Jenkins was not really the man for the hour.

Darting fish-like movement

"Will the Right Hon Lady, in view of the strong all-party support which the Government has rightly received during the past two-and-a-half weeks," he began, "be in a mind that she will be expected to take future, I hope and believe, untroubled decisions..."

At this point, as well as the statesman's emphasis on the word "untroubled", he made one of the two famous hand movements he deploys to illustrate anything. One is a turn of the wrist with half-closed palm as if he is unscrewing a light bulb. The other is a darting, fish-like movement of the whole hand. Yesterday we got the darting, fish-like movement. "...untroubled decisions in an equally non-party way. This demands more than merely asking the Paymaster General (Mr Cecil Parkinson), who is chairman of the Conservative Party, to a meeting of senior ministers last night. Will she seriously consider the proposal made by the hon Member for Cardiff?"

Whereupon, he sat down. And that was his grand design? Apparently so. Research revealed that Mr Jenkins was referring to Mr Howells the Liberal Member from Cardigan. His proposal? All-party consultations, apparently. That, then, was the Jenkins strategy to deal with Galtieri: tea at number ten. "I must confess, I had expected a more fundamental point from the Right Hon Gentleman," Mrs Thatcher told him.

But we still do not know Mrs Thatcher's intentions. In a few days, the Jenkins All-Party Tea Force may look the less risky plan. By then it may be too late.



Against a background of Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopters, Royal Marines line up at dawn for a weapons check on board HMS Hermes.

Naval force 'heads for S Georgia' but Whitehall stays silent

continued from page 1

Mr David Crouch and Sir William van Straubenzee seemed to have been among the very few who were anxious about the possible use of force. The majority of those who spoke were said to have sounded impatient at the delayed arrival of the task force in the South Atlantic and at the continued diplomatic activity.

None the less, the party as a whole is strongly in support. For the time being, of the Government's policy of seeking a diplomatic solution with the naval task force to strengthen their hand.

Potential differences among Conservative MPs emerged in broadcast interviews yesterday. Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the

backbench 1922 committee, said on ITN's News at One programme that the Argentine proposals marked the beginning rather than the end of the negotiations. "We should go on negotiating through every means open to us."

□ Boston Globe report that the Royal Navy's Falklands task force had split, with a detachment of two aircraft carriers, fast destroyers and several troopships heading towards South Georgia, was received non-committally in Whitehall yesterday. But it was not denied. (Henry Stanhope writes).

There has been consistent speculation that the task force would first try to recapture South Georgia from the hand of Argentinian

soldiers stationed there, so that it might then be used as a forward operating base for an assault on the Falklands. It would also tighten the pressure on the Buenos Aires Government.

But it is unlikely that the grouping heading for the isolated dependency would be as large and as powerful as the Boston Globe report suggested.

Britain could accelerate the pace of things by sending frigates and anti-aircraft destroyers ahead to join the submarines in the Falklands area within the next 48 hours, it is learnt authoritatively. But the Government is clearly content for the time being to apply the pressure gently while allowing time for a political settlement.

Widespread criticism of junta's refusal to involve politicians

Continued from page 1

steadfastly support the invasion of the islands and are prepared to go to war to retain them.

But there is widespread criticism of the junta's refusal to involve the politicians. Señor Carlos Conín, the leader of the Radical Party said: "Many confusing and contradictory versions are going around, and politicians know only what they read in the papers. If the junta want us to step-up support for the reconquest of the Malvinas (Falklands) they have got to let us know the real state of negotiations."

It appears that the military leaders told Mr Alexander Haig, the American secretary of State, that a final decision would have to be reached by December 31 and

that they wanted some kind of assurance that they could expect a favourable outcome.

While the politicians were being briefed today, the cabinet was meeting to discuss the reaction of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, to the junta's offer to take the central question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to the United Nations.

Reports in several Argentine newspapers said today that Mr Haig told the junta that their proposals for peace might not go far enough to satisfy the British government. "If they are turned down there will be war", he is reported as saying. Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Foreign Minister, is said to have replied: "If there is,

your country will be responsible."

Señor Méndez went to Casa Rosada this afternoon for consultation with General Galtieri and there was some suggestion tonight that he might travel to Washington, but the Foreign Ministry refused to comment.

'Nixon drunk' denial

New York. — Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, has denied that President Nixon was ever drunk while facing crucial decisions. Speaking in a television programme, he rebutted allegations in the May issue of Atlantic magazine that Mr Nixon was frequently drunk at critical times.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust, attends selection committee for United Kingdom Scholars, Nuffield College, Regent's Park, London, 11.45.
The Duke of Kent visits 27th Annual International Gas Turbine Conference and Exhibition, Wembley Conference Centre and Arena, 3.15.

Exhibitions in progress
Sculptures by Oscar Nemon, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Mon to Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 4; (until May 23).
Prints by Ying Yung Li, paintings by Julie Cheng and Folk Art of West Bengal, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, Cumbria; Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat and Sun 2 to 5; (until May 2).

The Dark Hills, the Heavy Clouds, paintings and drawings of Wales, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; (until May 23).

Drawings, watercolours and graphic work by Oskar Kokoschka, Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield; Mon to

Sat 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5, (until May 2).
Paintings and drawings by Robin Bowdler, Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museum, Burnley; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sun 12 to 5, closed Sat; (until May 9).
An Alternative Art, exhibition of American primitive painting, Museum and Art Gallery, Worthing; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, (until May 1).

Drawings and prints by Stephanie Fryer, Museum Art Gallery, The Green, Stafford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5, (until May 8).

The Anatomy of the Horse by George Stubbs, Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, Suffolk; Tues to Sat 12 to 12.30 and 2 to 5 (until May 16).

Talks, lectures

Acupuncture, by Dr Michael Cohen, Roundshaw Library, Mollison Drive, Roundshaw, Warrington, Sutton, 8.15.

Medieval Stained Windows, illustrated talk by Patricia Bourke, Usher Gallery, Lincoln, 7.30.

Music

Dorset County Museum Music Society Concert, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, 8.15.

Concert by Bristol Sinfonia, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.

Concert by Orchestra of St John's Smith Square, Hexagon, Reading, 7.30.

Recital by Marisa Robles and Christopher Hyde-Smith, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, 7.30.

Haarlem, 1782: Charlotte Brontë, Thornton, Yorks, 1816: Henry VII died at Richmond, Surrey, 1509; Mark Twain died at Reading, Conn, USA, 1910.

Marathon party

After the London Marathon on May 9, the whole of the covered market area at Covent Garden is to be taken over for an evening jam-packed with the presentation of the marathon prizes under the portico of St Paul's Church. There will be buskers and jazz bands, still walkers, Disney characters and a fairground. Six thousand tickets at £2 each are now on sale in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, and are obtainable from the London Tourist Information Centre at Victoria Station (01-730 0791) or from County Hall (01-633 1633 or 633 1723).

Queen's birthday

The Queen was born on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street, London. There will be a 41 gun salute by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in Hyde Park opposite the Dorchester Hotel at 12; and a 62 gun salute by the Honourable Artillery Company, Tower Wharf, EC3, at 1.

Roads

London and the South-east: M1: Entry and exit at junction 13 (Bedford A5140) closed; minor repairs between junctions 12 and 13. A281: Temporary signals at junction 5 of Horsham, A12: One-way traffic on A12 at junction 10 to 12.30 and 2 to 5 (until May 16).

Midlands: A625: Closed at Mam Tor, Derbyshire, diversion, A5: Single lane traffic and temporary signals N of Nuneaton, 3.45: Temporary signals near junction 16 of M1; also between Wellingborough and Little Ilchester, Northamptonshire.

North: A1000 and A660M: Lane closures N of Scotch Corner to junction with A68, and on A660M, N Yorks. All: Roadworks at Barnsdale, 8.45: Redhouse, S Yorks. Lane delays. A6120: Roadworks on Leeds outer ring road at Westwood Lane junction.

A449: Roadworks N of Whitehill Farm on Caerleon Moors road, Northamptonshire. A493: Lane closures at junction 2 (A523, Dunfermline). M9: Lane closures from Craighead (junction 10) to Dumbarton Road.

Scotland: A93: Temporary road closures at Perth, Perthshire. M90: Single lane northbound at junction 3 (Cowdenbeath); lane closures both ways at junction 2 (A523, Dunfermline). M9: Lane closures from Craighead (junction 10) to Dumbarton Road.

Postnotes

From today, postnotes — prepaid letters for mailing anywhere in the United Kingdom — will replace the old letter cards. They are made of stronger, better quality paper.

Available from post offices at 21p each of £1 for five, they will be created as first class mail value printed on them. This means they can still be used after any future rise in postal charges without additional payment.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	1.75	1.67
Belgium Sch	31.40	29.40
Denmark Kr	22.30	21.30
France Fr	15.03	14.28
Germany DM	1.48	1.41
Greece Dr	116.00	109.00
Hong Kong \$	10.50	10.00
Italy Lit	2385.00	2285.00
Japan Yen	458.00	432.00
Netherlands Gld	4.90	4.64
Norway Kr	11.22	10.62
Portugal Esc	132.00	125.00
South Africa Rd	7.20	7.04
Spain Ptas	191.00	182.00
Sweden Kr	10.96	10.38
Switzerland Fr	3.62	3.40
USA \$	1.82	1.75

London. The FT index closed up 4.5 at 362.6.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending April 11:

1. Coronation Street (Wed) Granada (16.90m)
2. Dallas (13.25m) Thames (16.20m)
3. Coronation Street (Mon) (15.40m)
4. Minder, Thames (15m)
5. 3-2-1, Yorkshire (13.30m)
6. Give Us A Clue, Thames (13.35m)
7. Where There's Life... Yorkshire (12.85m)
8. Family Fortunes, Central (12.85m)
9. Crossroads (Tues) Central (12.90m)
10. Crossroads (Wed) (12.45m)

BBC 1

1. News and Sport (Sat) (13.50m)
2. Dallas (13.25m)
3. Open All Hours (12.45m)
4. World Superstars '82 (12.20m)
5. Top of the Pops (12.05m)
6. The Kenny Everett Television Show (11.70m)
7. Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (11.55m)
8. A Whale For The Killing (11.50m)
9. Seven Years of Parkinson (11.50m)
10. The Scarlet Buccaneer (10.20m)

BBC 2

1. Pol Black '82 (9.55m)
2. Marl Cairns (6.15m)
3. Nancy Astor (Wed and Sun) (5.75m)
- 3=Des O'Connor Tonight (5.75m)
5. The Mike Harding Show (5.20m)
6. The Treasure of Sierra Madre (4.70m)
- 6=The Candidate (4.70m)
8. Heart Transplant (4.50m)
9. The Wellers (4m)
- 9=Call My Bluff (4m)

Broadcasters Audience Research Board.

Lighting up time

TODAY
London 8.37 pm to 5.21 am
Bristol 8.40 pm to 5.24 am
Edinburgh 8.50 pm to 5.24 am
Manchester 8.55 pm to 5.24 am
Perth 8.55 pm to 5.46 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fog; s, sun.
Belfast: c 10.60, f 10.50, s 12.54
Birmingham: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Bristol: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Cardiff: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Edinburgh: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Glasgow: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
London: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Manchester: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Perth: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Sheffield: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Sunderland: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Tyneside: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52
Wolverhampton: c 10.50, f 10.50, s 11.52

The Washington Post yesterday said that Argentina has made further United States mediation efforts, then the Reagan Administration should now support Britain.

The Figaro yesterday said the lesson to be drawn from this crisis is how easily an armed conflict can arise and grow in a world of shrinking distances.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Government's White Paper on expenditure plans.
Lords (2.30): Debate on the consequences of privatisation publicly owned companies.

Weather forecast

A weak trough will move into W Scotland and N Ireland.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S and SW England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Dry, variable cloud, sunny intervals; wind variable, light; max temp 15 to 17C (59 to 63F).
E NW, Central N and NE England, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Dry, sunny periods; wind variable or W, light; max temp 15 to 17C (59 to 63F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen: Mostly dry, bright or sunny periods; becoming cloudier later; wind W, light to moderate; max temp 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).
SW, NE and NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland: Bright or sunny at times, clearing later; wind SW, moderate to fresh; max temp 10 to 13C (50 to 55F).
Orkney, Shetland: Bright or sunny at first, becoming cloudy with rain; wind SW, moderate to fresh; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).
Mostly dry for tomorrow and Friday; cloudier in the far north. Rather warm.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel: Wind NW moderate, good; sea slight. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W, moderate; sea slight.

Sun rise: 5.53 am
Sun set: 8.07 pm
Moon rise: 5.22 am
Moon set: 4.58 pm
New moon: April 23

Lighting up time

TODAY
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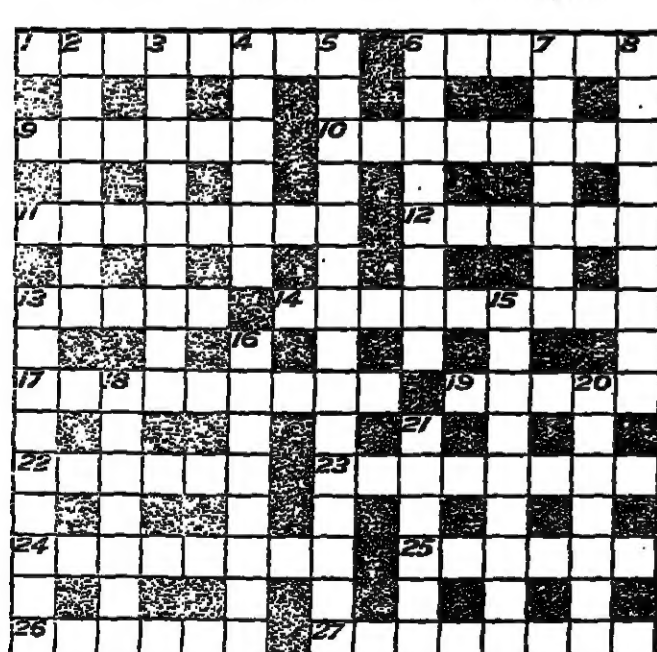
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,811



ACROSS

- 1 Bit of jazz by river — a very noisy riddle (4-4)
- 2 Aspects of reality about English society (6)
- 3 Conflict about name in Hastings (6)
- 4 One new breed that is no good as food (8)
- 5 Message reporting mineral spring in the trench (8)
- 6 Redevelopment of quiet rural belt (6)
- 7 Take courage from a French soldier (5)
- 8 Painter's technique is sweeping (9)
- 9 Receive capital review (4,5)
- 10 Gertrude needs gun to capture one (5)
- 11 The dear child makes witty remark about university course (6)
- 12 Stand to impede mobility for instance (3)
- 13 Drive too close to rear entrance (4-4)
- 14 Sovereign having one of these, or four? (6)
- 15 Strong as the village blacksmith (6)
- 16 Newly developed diets are more reliable (8)

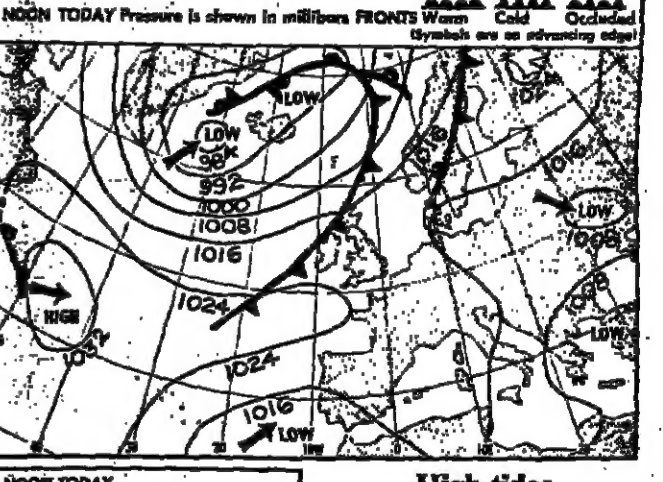
DOWN

- 1 Gets drunk at cocktail parties — what language? (7)
- 2 Pudding Lane sounds great (5)
- 3 Crafty agent traps a relative (6)
- 4 Plane logs to make boxes banned by Union (6-9)
- 5 On this loose heel there's no charge (4,4)
- 6 How does love seize me? Comes up to something prohibitive (7)
- 7 Florence's family after opening of sale (9)
- 8 Last month Muslim leader accepted Trade Union's last demand (9)
- 9 Where to cross the river for a glass (9)
- 10 Figures of a chiseller betraying a trust? Ayl (8)
- 11 Writer takes a nap on the beach (7)
- 12 Does the burning of it so enrage some people? (7)
- 13 Her lover was sore distressed, mind (6)

Solution of Puzzle No 15,810

DOWN
1 Gets drunk at cocktail parties — what language? (7)
2 Pudding Lane sounds great (5)
3 Crafty agent traps a relative (6)

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS WINDS



High tides

	AM	PM	MT
London Bridge	12.36	0.11	11.5
Aberdeen	12.29	3.7	12.27
Belfast	12.30	11.3	11.9
Bristol	12.08	3.1	10.32
Cardiff	12.05	10.5	10.35
Dundee	12.04	3.2	10.34
Glasgow	12.03	4.7	10.33
Harwich	12.11	3.9	11.21
Liverpool	12.08	3.5	10.30
London	12.07	3.4	10.29
Manchester	12.06	3.3	10.28
Newcastle	12.05	3.2	10.27
Nottingham	12.04	3.1	10.26
Portsmouth	12.03	3.0	10.25
Sheffield	12.02	2.9	10.24
Sunderland	12.01	2.8	10.23
Tyneside	12.00	2.7	10.22
Wolverhampton	11.59	2.6	10.21
Wrexham	11.58	2.5	10.20

Around Britain

London	5.23	15.58	Sun	Set	Valencia	11.4	15.58	Sunny
Wigan	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Torquay	12.0	16.08	Sunny	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Cardiff	11.8	16.08	Sunny	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Jersey	12.2	16.56	Sunny	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Scilly Isles	9.4	14.67	Sun	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Worcester	11.8	16.08	Sunny	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Yarm	12.2	15.58	Sunny	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Worcester	9.5	12.54	Sun	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Colwyn Bay	10.7	14.67	Sunny	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Southport	11.8	16.08	Sunny	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Sheff	10.0	11.58	Sun	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Sheff	9.3	12.54	Sun	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Sheff	10.7	14.67	Sun	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Sheff	9.3	12.54	Sun	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Sheff	10.7	14.67	Sun	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Sheff	9.3	12.54	Sun	
Sheff	5.23	15.58	Sunny	Sheff	10.7	14.67	Sun	
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